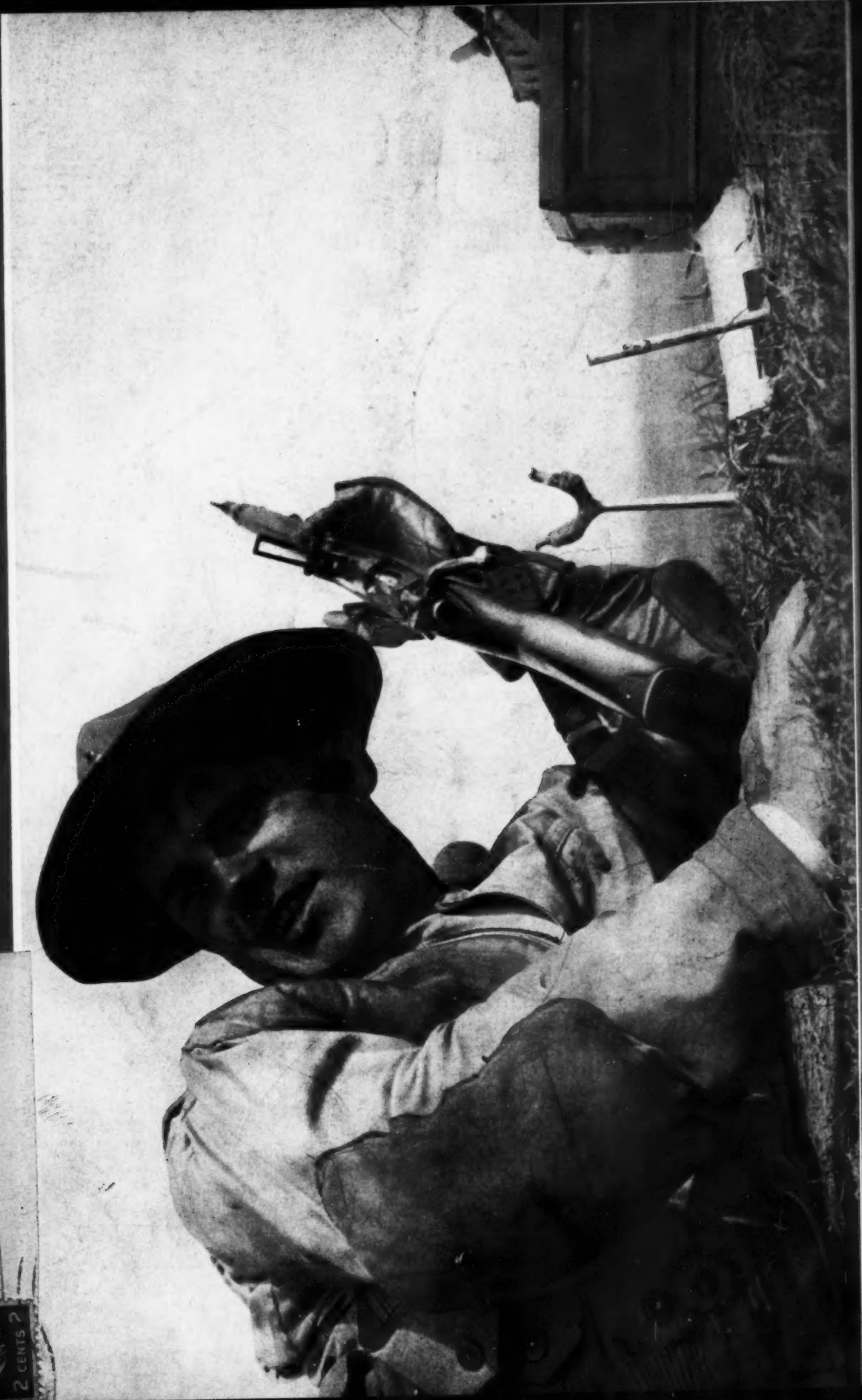


FEBRUARY  
1940

# AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

Col. F. C. Endicott,  
1918 Navy Bldg.,  
Washington, D. C.



# TOP-RANKING SHOOTERS Set New World's Records With

## PETERS MATCH AMMUNITION!

★ National Rifle Association recently announced the rankings of pistol and small bore rifle shooters in the U.S.A. for the year 1939. Among those who rated top ranking, many used Peters ammunition in winning individual events throughout the year . . . and **FOUR NEW WORLD'S RECORDS** were achieved with the help of Peters accuracy. Try Peters ammunition yourself . . . use it in practice or serious match competition!



Target is Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.  
Police Match and Dewar Match are trade-marks of Peters Cartridge Division



★ **A. W. HEMMING** — Detroit Police  
—Number 1 Service Pistol Shooter  
in the U.S.A. for 1939. Percentage:  
95.63. Took 6 events in the 1st Annual  
American Police Revolver League Matches  
at Chicago, shooting Peters Police Match.  
Shot his way to sensational victory at Eighth  
Annual Southeastern and Fla. State Cham-  
pionship Pistol Tournament with 12 wins,  
using Police Match.



★ **E. E. JONES** — Los Angeles Police  
—Second ranking Service Pistol  
Shooter in country, with 95.51.  
Won 7 firsts, SET NEW WORLD'S  
RECORD in N.R.A. All-Around Pistol  
Match at Camp Perry, the most sensational  
pistol shooting ever performed at the na-  
tional matches, shooting Peters Police Match.  
Member of Los Angeles Police Team that  
won all of the 5-man team events at the  
Fifth Southwestern Pistol Matches at San  
Diego, shooting Peters ammunition. Mem-  
ber L. A. police team that won N.R.A.  
Revolver Team Trophy event, shooting  
Peters Police Match.



★ **M. R. ROGERS**, U. S. Customs, 6th  
ranking Service Pistol Shooter in  
the nation, with 95.00, SET NEW  
WORLD'S RECORD in the .22 Cal. Slow  
Fire Match at Ft. Lawton, Wash., Pistol  
Match, using Peters Target.



★ **P. M. CHAPMAN** — U. S. Customs  
—eighth ranking Service Pistol  
Shooter in the whole U.S.A., rating  
94.63, won eight firsts and three seconds out  
of the eleven events in the Interstate Pistol  
and Revolver Tournament at Spokane,  
Washington, shooting Peters ammunition.



★ **CHARLES ASKINS** — Imm. Border  
Patrol, El Paso, Texas, was rated  
ninth ranking Service Pistol Shooter  
with 94.57. Took the Texas State Cham-  
pionships for the **FOURTH CONSECU-  
TIVE YEAR**. Was high scorer at Wyoming  
State Pistol Championship. Won the C. F.  
Slow Fire Match at Coral Gables, shooting  
Police Match in all three events.



★ **GLORIA JACOBS** — Woodland, Cal.,  
high lady pistol shooter, with rank-  
ing of 93.00. Set new Police Course  
record for women at the Fifth Southwest  
International Pistol Matches, shooting Peters  
Police Match—has made sensational wins  
with Peters ammunition since.



★ **WILLIAM P. SCHWEITZER** — Hillside,  
N. J., second ranking All-American  
Small Bore Rifle Shooter, with a  
rating of 99.509. MADE GREATEST  
SMALL BORE RECORD OF ALL TIME  
at Camp Perry, with an unfinished run of  
220 bull's-eyes, in the iron-sights Swiss  
Match at 200 yards, shooting Peters Dewar  
Match. The first 20 shots were scored as  
200 x 200, with 8x's, for the first iron-sight  
200-yard "possible" on record. A remark-  
able demonstration of the unparalleled  
accuracy of Peters ammunition!

National Hardware Open House—April 25-May 4—WE ARE COOPERATING

**PETERS** **DU PONT**  
PETERS CARTRIDGE DIVISION, Remington Arms Co., Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.  
MEMBER AMERICAN WILDLIFE INSTITUTE, "FOR A MORE ABUNDANT GAME SUPPLY"

# Rifle *Remington* News

DU PONT

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

FEBRUARY, 1940

## POSSIBLES and IMPOSSIBLES

by FRANK J. KAHRs



Ed McGoldrick of Spokane, Washington, sent me a three-column full length newspaper clipping from the Spokane *Spokesman-Review* covering the Eighth Annual *Spokesman-Review* Shoot. Two hundred and sixty riflemen shoot each week under a schedule with Classes "A", "B", "C" and "D", with clubs representing all types of organizations, Boy Scouts, De Molays and just plain ordinary rifle clubs.

Now get this: in Class "A" there are 11 clubs; in Class "B" 19; in Class "C" 28; in Class "D" 5. That's a grand total of 53 clubs competing in an indoor shooting league every week during the season!

This newspaper is largely responsible for the unusual success of this series through its publicity and the publication of the scores of every man firing in the prone, sitting and standing positions, and arranging the averages, etc.

Incidentally, Mrs. Ed McGoldrick, an old Camp Perry Shooter, is official scorer for the League.

Recently we received a complete report of the shoot held by the Danville, Pennsylvania, Club, some time back. There was a wind blowing that varied in velocity from 15 to 30 miles. R. D. Heiser got himself first place in the 100-yard Metallic, shooting Palma Match. Walter Ermoled was in second place with a 190, shooting a Model 37 and Palma Kleanbore. Frank Frohm, using a Model 37, took second in Match No. 1 with 185; third in Match No. 4 with 197 and fifth in Match No. 5 with 189. R. D. Heiser won the Aggregates of Matches 4 and 5, which combined would make a Dewar Course, scoring 388. Outside of the terrific wind the weather was fair, clear, and bright.

Some of the small bore shooters who were at Perry in 1938 will remember the visit of two young Canadians. They came from up around Toronto, and were members of the Norval Rifle Club. I have some targets made by Harvey Nurse at the Annual Championship Match of the Ontario Rifle Association at Longbranch, Ontario. It was one of four possibles over the Dewar Course and so we have awarded our Canadian friend a 10-X and a 400 brassard with a great deal of pleasure because he used Remington Palma Kleanbore.

W. V. Thompson is shooting in good form too. He tells us that he won two fine aggregate shields the past season. Their ambition is to come back to Camp Perry for a return visit and also to compete at Camp Ritchie. I hope to see them there again.

You'll read elsewhere on this page of some of the recent wins made by Willet Kuhn. This young Texan did some splendid shooting during 1939. He's won plenty of individual events, and by placing consistently high, has taken a good many Aggregates. He placed second in the Aggregate at the N.R.A. Shoot, western at Fort Worth with 3177. Against the competition out in that area, that's a real achievement. Hope you do even better in 1940, Willet!

## OTTO KOLB WINS CONN. MATCH WITH MODEL 37 AND PALMA KLEANBORE

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—Otto Kolb of New York City was shooting in peak form at the recent shoot of the Connecticut State Rifle Association here. Shooting against a field of 83 crack riflemen, he turned in a total score of 595 x 600.

The match consists of 20 shots with iron sights at 50 yards, 20 shots with scopes at 50 yards, and 20 shots at 200 yards, any sights. Kolb scored 200 with 12 X's, 196 and 199 with 8 X's respectively, taking first place in the Aggregate and in the 200-Yard event, third in the 50-Yard Any Sights, and fourth in the 50-Yard Iron Sights.

Kolb used a Model 37 and that hot Palma Kleanbore ammunition.

This was the second straight Aggregate won by Kolb. At the preceding Association shoot, he won the Aggregate and the 50-Yard Iron Sights, placed third in the 50-Yard Scope event, and fifth at 200 yards.

## KEN HANKINS GETS HOT WITH "TARGETMASTER"

LAKEWOOD, N. J.—A total of fifty-five contestants turned out for the first Indoor Mothball Match of the Lakewood Rifle and Pistol Club.

Ken Hankins, shooting a Model 37 rifle and Remington Police Targetmaster ammunition, turned in the outstanding performance of the shoot. He scored 296 x 300 on the 50-Yard Expert target with iron sights, placing second; 296 x 300 in the 50-Yard Any Sights, placing third, and won the Aggregate of these two matches by a 2-point margin with 592. Then he teamed up with J. Jensen and won the 2-Man team event.

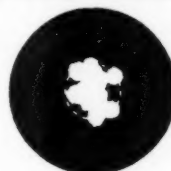
Jack Bevan, shooting a Model 37, placed third in the 50-Yard Iron Sights event with 295, 1 point down, and finished third in the Aggregate with 589. W. Heyer, another Model 37 shooter, placed second in the Junior Class event.

## More Shooters Get Brassards

Remington 400 brassards were awarded to H. P. Nodecker of Oneida, N. Y. and C. F. Blackmer of Los Angeles, Cal. Both shooters used Model 37's and Remington ammunition. 10X Possible brassards went to R. C. Johnson of Plainfield, N. J., Emil Lindfors of Vandergrift, Pa., and Russell Hartranft, Jr., of South Orange, N. J.

## KENNETH HANKINS WINS N.J. MATCH WITH 499x500

### THE TARGET OF THE MONTH



A beautiful 10X possible made at 50 yards. Iron sights, with Remington Hi-Skor ammunition. Dwight E. Kleist, Jr., of Souderton, Pa., was the rifleman. The X-ring is practically shot out of the target, proving what Remington regular price ammunition can do when a good shot is behind the butt plate.

Send your hot targets, properly witnessed, to Frank J. Kahrs, Remington Arms Co., Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.

## RANDLE AND W. KUHN STAR AT TEXAS SHOOT

GALVESTON, Tex. — "Palma Kleanbore" shooters really went to town at the recent Galveston Island Championship matches here. Of the thirty competitors who finished first, second or third in Class A or B, twenty used Remington ammunition exclusively (including 8 out of 10 firsts), and two used Remington in several matches.

Thurman Randle, shooting a new Model 37 and Palma Kleanbore, won the Aggregate with 1585, one point ahead of that up-and-coming shooter Willet Kuhn of Houston. Paul Klipsch was third with 1583, shooting Palma Kleanbore.

### Willet Kuhn Wins 2 Events

Kuhn won both the Dewar Any Sights, scoring 396 with 24X's, and the 100-Yard Any Sights, in which event he turned in a splendid 400 with 29 X's. He used Palma Kleanbore in the latter match, and in the 100-yard stage of the Dewar.

J. C. Welsh of Houston won the Class B Aggregate with 1564, and Class B of the Any Sights Dewar. Mrs. Welsh won Class B honors in the 100-Yard Any Sights.

### Shoots Targetmaster in unusual event

UNION HILL, N. J.—Seventy of the leading small bore riflemen in the New York City Metropolitan area assembled at Swiss Hall here recently for a 50-shot match at 50 yards on the N.R.A. 50-meter target. Scope sights were permitted, and contestants allowed one hour to fire.

When the smoke cleared, Kenneth Hankins of Neptune, N. J., was one of five contestants who had 499's. When the targets were checked, it was discovered that Hankins had the best in the bunch. He used Remington Police Targetmaster ammunition. Elsewhere on this page is another story on this man Hankins, who has really been going to town with Police Targetmaster.

## SCORES 249X250 IN 4-POSITION MATCH

### Eli Cook uses Model 37 and Kleanbore

RACINE, Wis.—Word has just been received of some bang-up shooting done at the Indoor Range here very recently by Eli Cook.

Shooting a Model 37 rifle and Kleanbore ammunition, Mr. Cook scored 100 x 100 prone, 50 x 50 sitting, 50 x 50 kneeling, and 49 x 50 offhand. Grand total, 249 x 250! The shot that went out for a 9 in the offhand stage was so close that it had to be gauged and a magnifying glass used to be sure it was out.

And this is as good a time as any to point out that the new Model 37 is just about the finest rifle ever made for four-position as well as prone position shooting. The original Model 37 was plenty good—but the 1940 version, with that marvelous new stock and that new trigger which really eliminates all signs of backlash—fellows, it can't be beat!



# We do it—or else!

"We have no regular 'smiths in this part of the country, so if we have any gun repairs to be made we either do them ourselves—or else."

That is what a Dickens County (Texas) gun owner wrote when asking for a recommended list of books dealing with gunsmithing. We have an idea, too, that the authors of the titles recommended below had just such fellows in mind. For each explains in simple terms and methods how to repair ailing firearms.



For the hobbyist or amateur who has the inclination, but lacks gunsmithing experience and tools, the little manual, "Elementary Gunsmithing," by Perry D. Frazer, rates as our number one choice. In 70,000 well-chosen words, this author tells all the basic principles of the gunsmithing art, names the simple tools required, and gives step-by-step instructions to follow in stockmaking, checkering, finishing, gun repairing. Thirty-two pages of illustrations picture the various phases of production covered by text. No beginner can go wrong in buying this Frazer manual.

It costs but \$2.00 and is worth it.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Perhaps the most useful gunsmithing book ever written—certainly the most popular—is the old reliable "Modern Gunsmithing," written by Clyde Baker. Written for the ordinary gun crank for use with the tools and facilities of the average home, farm, or ranch, it tells and illustrates the major alterations, as well as minor jobs to be done. Everything is included in its specialized chapters, with step-by-step instructions for each operation. Whether you are an amateur or professional gunsmith, you will find this Baker book of 525 pages and 200 illustrations well worth the price, \$4.50.

## MODERN GUNSMITHING



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Third, but by no means last, of our recommended gunsmithing books is Vickery's new manual, "Advanced Gunsmithing." This title set a new all-time record for pre-Christmas sales, and for 1940 appears sure to become the outstanding gun book of the year. It has everything, including complete and practical instruction on barrel making—how to bore, ream, and rifle your own barrel—how to chamber them—how to insure correct and safe head-spacing—bolt bending, barrel changing, action alteration. All these

things are explained in a practical, workable manner.

A chapter dealing with reboring of ruined, shot-out rifle barrels contains the most original and useful dope given to gun owners during the past decade. A book written primarily for professional gunsmiths, but one any mechanically minded shooter can use to good advantage. It contains 432 pages of new and original dope, supported by 155 illustrations. Price, \$4.00.

## NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

1600 Rhode Island Avenue

Washington, D. C.

## More Avenues of Pleasure

Some sportsmen think of shooting as a science; others regard it as a hobby. Everyone agrees that the study of firearms and their use offers more interesting, intriguing avenues of pleasure than any other pastime.

For the convenience of readers who wish to expand their scientific knowledge or to explore a hobby—we also sell these additional textbooks and manuals devoted to other phases of the shooting game. Each volume has been written by an outstanding authority. Each author knows his subject thoroughly and writes about it in an understandable and pleasing manner. Order one of these books as an aid to greater enjoyment of your favorite sport.

### On Reloading

Handloader's Manual—Naramore .....	\$3.50
Sixgun Cartridges & Loads—Keith .....	1.50

### On Gun Collecting

Textbook of Firearms Identification—Hatcher .....	7.50
English Pistols and Revolvers—George .....	4.00
U. S. Martial Pistols and Revolvers—Gluckman .....	4.50
Gun Collecting—Chapel .....	2.50

### On Hunting

Military & Sporting Rifle Shooting—Crossman .....	4.50
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Big Game Rifles & Cartridges—Keith .....	1.50
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### On Shotguns

Modern Shotguns & Loads—Askins .....	4.00
The Bird, The Gun & The Dog—Sands .....	7.50

### On Rifle Shooting

Book of the Springfield—Crossman .....	4.00
.22 Caliber Rifle Shooting—Landis .....	3.75
A Rifleman Went to War—McBride .....	3.50

### On Pistol Shooting

Automatic Pistol Marksmanship—Reichenbach .....	1.50
Pocket size Revolver Manual—Bair .....	.50
A.B.C. of Pistol Shooting—Wyman .....	.10



# THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

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## CONTENTS

### COVER PHOTO

Courtesy James Stitt, Jr., Bowling Green, Ohio. Picture shows Raymond J. Novotny of the Ohio National Guard Rifle Team just after making a V at 1000 yards in practice.

POWDER SMOKE . . . . .	4
WORMS AND PISTOLS . . . . .	5
FROM TYRO TO MASTER . . . . .	6
THE SAVAGE MODEL 1899 . . . . .	8
THE COACH PICKS A TEAM . . . . .	10
HOME GUNSMITHING . . . . .	12
NEW SPOTTING SCOPES . . . . .	14
THE OLD COACH'S CORNER . . . . .	15
SHORT ARTICLES . . . . .	16 & 21
SINGLE-SHOT RIFLES . . . . .	17
CAVEAT EMPTY . . . . .	19
LET'S GO . . . . . TO PRESS . . . . .	20
THIS HANDGUN GAME . . . . .	22
A SIMPLE CHRONOGRAPH . . . . .	23
HOW ARE YOUR NERVES? . . . . .	24
SCOPE-SIGHT RETICULES . . . . .	25
SHORT-CUTS TO BETTER PICTURES . . . . .	27
(Concluded from January Issue)	
LAYING ANOTHER ALIBI . . . . .	31
OVER THE NEWS DESK . . . . .	37
DOPE BAG . . . . .	43
ARMS CHEST . . . . .	50

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# POWDER SMOKE

## THE OTHER APPLES

LIEUTENANT DENSFORD'S ARTICLE in this issue is worthy of serious reading by rifle and pistol shooters alike. However, it seems to us to miss one important point. It is an old axiom that "one bad apple can spoil the barrel." Fortunately, there are very, very few "bad apples" in the shooting barrel, but those few *can* start a lot of spoilage in the rest of the barrel.

It is this point that Lieutenant Densford fails to mention—the bad effect of poor sportsmanship upon the *new* shooters coming into the pistol and rifle game. We have freshly in mind a case which illustrates the point.

He was a fine kid when we first met him. He was just learning the game, but he was learning rapidly. His counselor, coach—and hero, was justly rated near the top in his branch of the sport. His top rating was based not only upon his ability to make scores, but equally upon his ability to make friends by reason of his unfailing good sportsmanship under all circumstances. The kid was still far away from the top of the match bulletins, but he took each defeat with a smile, never produced an alibi, and was soon as popular as his sportsmanlike coach.

Then the boy's hero was transferred out of town. There was another better-than-average shooter in the same club. Indeed, he was good enough to be near the top usually, and to frequently finish in the No. 1 position. The kid naturally turned to him for counsel. This man was not particularly popular in his own club, but he was tolerated for his score-making ability. His failure to be popular was not due to anything which the casual visitor would notice. He was prompt in reporting at his firing position, quiet in demeanor, and sober in his habits. But he was not popular because he was an alibi artist. He *never* fired a shot on another man's target, but could *always* see a "double" on his own. He never dropped a point through any fault of *his*, but always because some *other* competitor or some spectator had made an unnecessary amount of noise. He was never over-time in shooting a string, but the range officer's watch was fast. When an overworked scorer gave him a point or two too many, he did not bother to correct it, but took the attitude that he was entitled to it because on past occasions he had lost a point or two which might have been scored in his favor.

Two years later we saw the kid again—now a young man. His shooting was good enough to demand consideration in any company, *but the real joy of shooting had gone from him.* Every score that did not place him among the medal winners, left him utterly dejected. *He* never threw a miss, but was always certain he

could see a double. A bad score was always due to a gun that had gone haywire, or was caused by the action of some other competitor, or spectator, or range official. To the casual observer he still appeared to be the ideal competitor: prompt in reporting, never setting up a loud squawk, never *apparently* causing any trouble on the range; but his growls were made to other shooters, or his complaints to officials too late to have them investigated. His victories were occasions for a kind of smug "I-told-you-so" satisfaction; his defeats brought periods of depression and an alibi. He had lost his popularity.

Neither this boy, nor the older expert who is responsible for the kid's present state of mind, would knowingly violate a published rule, yet both of them quite frankly spend their time working out ways to *skirt as close to the edge as possible* in the hope of thereby winning additional matches. If they would devote the same amount of time and study to correcting the errors in their shooting form *and in their mental attitude*, they would do far more to improve their scores, increase their popularity among their fellow shooters, and derive immeasurably more pleasure out of the shooting game.

We are not so much concerned about that tiny percentage of men in the shooting game who would deliberately chisel their way into seeming victory. They invariably find their way to the ash heap of disqualification and expulsion. What concerns us is the effect upon our younger shooters of the example set by older men who have developed the alibi habit, and who spend their time searching for legal loopholes in the regulations through which they can by devious means snatch an extra point. We should all be vastly concerned about the men who have forgotten the joy of clean-cut competition, and have turned their shooting into a serious, dogged kind of business which is at the opposite pole of the shooting world from the good-natured, good fellowship, sportsmanlike gateway through which our youngsters enter the shooting game.

The old-timer may not realize it, but he is something of a hero to the youngster just breaking in, and when the old-timer begins to cut corners, it follows as the night follows the day that the youngster, too, will shortly begin to cut corners.

We catch and remove the "bad apples," but what about the unhealthy infection set up in the other apples? The old-timer, the expert, has a double responsibility. He has not only to guard his own reputation, but to mind well the example he sets for the youngsters—those "other apples" in the shooting barrel!

# THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

VOL. 88

FEBRUARY 1940

NO. 2

## WORMS AND PISTOLS

By LT. CHARLES DENSFORD, A.C.

TREMENDOUS STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE in the past ten years in many phases of the pistol-shooting sport. Look over the records of ten years ago, and see how high they have since been boosted. Check up on the appearance and accuracy of the weapons of that period, and you'll find that the progress in equipment is no less amazing.

Consider the new items of paraphernalia the pistol fancier carries around with him nowadays: the King "click" sight, the "super-up" .45, the big, windbreaking, carryall shooting kit, the Heavy Barrel, the new improved Woodsman, the new Hi-Standard Roper grips and all the others that have followed him, the short action electrically operated targets, the "Duel" type of match, national rankings, registered tournaments, the .32, and so on, practically *ad infinitum*.

Shooting itself has improved. There are people in the game today who probably could have bettered the records of the old days, even without the superior equipment of today, because of more effective methods of training and conditioning. There are more and better matches, attracting talent from far and wide because of more desirable prizes, more interesting competition, and better shooting conditions.

All these things add up to more and better shooting, which is good stuff, not only for the game, but for the country as well. Improving the pistol marksmanship of the nation is a large step toward making this country "a nation of riflemen." Besides that, it is fun. It's a grand sport, this pistol target-shooting.

But there is a nasty worm in this delicious apple that we would otherwise enjoy so much. As against the innovations and improvements set forth above, there is one phase of the game that is no better than it ever was. In fact, due to the malign influence of a very few malcontents, the *sportsmanship* in the pistol-shooting game is, in my opinion, lower than it was ten years ago.

This condition should not exist. If other components of the sport can progress, so the sporting qualities of the competitors can grow up.

I do not mean that there is anything unsportsmanlike in challenging the value of a shot, or in protesting what seems to be an unfair procedure. I believe that every shooter should insist on his privileges if he is slighted, and the N. R. A. rules make ample provision for proper challenges and protests. Good officials do not resent such legal challenges or protests, and would rather have them made than to have a shooter leave a tournament disgruntled.

What I do mean is that there are a few men in the game who are accustomed to squirm through some loophole in the rules to secure an advantage for themselves. For the sake of clarity let me give a couple of examples:

In one recent shoot in which I was a participant, the competitor who was then leading the pack for top honors, and was being pressed hard, called for the range officer after his last string of a four-string timed-fire match which counted in the aggregate. Arrived at the firing point, the range officer received the gun, and from the other hand of the shooter, four empties and a dud, obviously a misfire. The customer was allowed to fire one shot in four seconds to complete his string. When another competitor, later in the day, objected to that procedure, the range officer, consulting his rules, admitted both of his mistakes, i. e.: (a) the shot had to be forfeited, since the competitor is not allowed to unload his own gun; and (b) if the alibi is allowed, the whole string must be fired over. If he reversed his previous decision, the range officer would have suffered a large black eye from his superiors before the reverberations had died down, so the objecting competitor chose to let the matter drop without a protest. The one who claimed the alibi won the championship by five points.

How much better for the sport it would have been if the alibiing competitor, who certainly knew the rules, had handed his gun, as was, to the range officer, for examination; then, when notified that he would be allowed to fire one more shot, if he had called the attention of the range officer to the rule requiring that the whole string be fired over. You may be sure that if any advantage could have been gained by his insisting upon correct application of the rules, this man would have screamed like a panther until it was done according to the book!

Another example which has struck close to home was the case of a young fellow who took second place in a recent major championship because of a mistake in the statistical office. I was informed later, by the team captain of the bird who knew when to keep his mouth shut, that the statistical office scored him ten points too high in one of the matches which made up the aggregate, but nobody said anything about it. When the smoke had cleared away, he was second in the Grand Aggregate by one point. If the scoring had been correct, he would have been fourth, and would have received \$7.50 less in prize money. Do you suppose for a minute he would have kept quiet if his score had been ten points too low?

Then there is the business of loading six cartridges into the pistol, when the rules call for five and no more. Part of the game is to learn to handle the hammer without a hitch, and for that reason the book says five shells. Yet men have been caught loading six. There is no sense in that stuff, and nobody that does it habitually belongs in the same company with sportsmen.

On the other side of the ledger, we have the man who won an important match at Perry through an error, or



believes so. His letter is on file in the office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, stating that his score was one point too high, and that he did not want any victory he did not earn. Which of the three shooters whom I have mentioned is doing the most good for the sport?

I had the pleasure of hearing a tirade against those who take advantage of the mistakes of others, to win. It was a Philippic, delivered in crisp words of one syllable, by a man who has had occasion to observe the funny business which I have mentioned. I regret that I cannot give it here, but most of it is unprintable. The gist of it was, however, that the speaker had never pulled any "slicker" tricks in a pistol match, and that if he thought he had to, to maintain his position, he would quit the game. Furthermore, he added that he had no use for anybody who would do anything shady, and that any medals or other glory acquired in such an off-color fashion would be so tainted that no man who had any pride at all would accept them.

My own opinions coincide precisely with those above, even though, for lack of adequate vocabulary, I can't couch them in such vitriolic language. I regret that there are a few such people in my favorite sport. The great majority of pistol-shooters are good sports, who love the game for itself, and for what they can put into it, as well as for what they can take out. Even though competition for top honors is keener now than it has ever been before, they will not be content to carry home trophies unless they have

won them fairly and squarely. The preponderance of honest men in the pistol game is so great that a single individual whose moral concepts are not up to standard, cannot ruin the entire sport. Still, consider what one worm can do to an apple.

Now, when you find a worm in an apple, you cut out the worm and the affected parts of the apple, and go on with the pleasant business of eating the fruit. It should be so with pistol shooting. Let us get rid of our worms, leaving only untainted, healthy parts, and go on with the grand sport of pistol shooting. I intend to, for my part.

Few competitors realize that in failing to promptly report "skullduggery" they are themselves violating the Official Rules and laying themselves open to disqualification or expulsion. Section VII of the Pistol Rules covers Disqualification. Paragraph 7-11 says: "No competitor will falsify his score nor that of any other competitor *nor be an accessory thereto*." Paragraph 7-16 says: "No competitor will evade nor attempt to evade *nor be an accessory* to the evasion of any of the conditions of a match. . . ."

The attitude that "I won't tell, let the officials find it out," is not only a violation of the laws of the game but is probably more responsible than anything else for the fact that a few "chiselers" still litter up our firing lines. I am prepared to expose the next bit of skullduggery that I observe and can prove. I am going to do my part to get the wormy apples out of the pistol-shooting barrel.

# FROM TYRO TO MASTER

NO. 3 OF A SERIES

By CAPT. R. C. ANDREWS, U. S. Inf.

## CADENCE

CADENCE IN RIFLE SHOOTING may be defined as the habitual *rhythmic* repetition of the sequence of movements followed by the firer for the delivery of each shot. It is a phase of shooting to which we devote too little study in relation to its importance in slow fire. That there is as definite a cadence, as definite a timing, of the various operations in slow fire as there is in rapid fire, is a fact that does not usually dawn upon us unless we've had good coaching in fundamentals or have learned its value through thousands of rounds of practice.

Learning to fire in cadence is the final standardization of the shooter's performance, the last fundamental step towards expertness. Shooting is merely a mechanical operation. Every time we fire a shot we are trying to eliminate the errors, if any, made on the preceding shot. We can prevent errors from creeping into our performance by performing the movements in connection with firing in the same way for each shot until they become routine and mechanical—second nature. Continued repetition of these movements at about the same rate of speed establishes our cadence.

If our shots are cadenced, that is, if they follow each other at about the same approximate time intervals, it fol-

lows that we must have used about the same amount of time for each individual operation in the process of firing. Among other things we must have devoted about the same amount of time to the process of squeezing the trigger, the most vital step in the whole performance. To do this we must have applied the same amount of pressure to the trigger at the beginning of each squeeze and must have increased that pressure at a uniform rate. There lies the value of cadence in shooting; it develops a uniform squeeze, and the squeeze becomes more nearly mechanical.

Those of you who (according to the individual viewpoint) have *progressed up to or slipped down into* the small bore game from the service rifle will have a better sense of cadence from your rapid fire practice than the smallboresman who starts from scratch. While it is generally appreciated that proper cadence has a tremendous influence on rapid fire scores, it is much less generally accepted as being true of slow fire.

It is a well known fact that wide shots in rapid fire occur when the cadence changes. Usually, when the cadence breaks, the firer has speeded up, and yanked the trigger, or gone boom into the pitfall of trying to make the shot perfect and yanking when it looked just right. No matter

what caused the break in cadence the result is almost certain to be a shot out of the group.

Knowing that poor shots result from breaks in the firer's cadence, an experienced shooter can stand behind a firer and call his shots with respect to the group merely by listening to their regularity. It is a common thing, around service teams, to hear a coach state positively, before the targets are marked, "They're all good except the fourth and the last ones, Jones. You slowed up on those two." And nine times out of ten the marked target will show two shots out of the group.

Varying an established slow fire cadence will give the same results. The first cause of variations in slow fire performance is the desire to make the shot absolutely perfect, to set it off when it looks just right. This leads to the build-up of a reflex and a yank, and a shot out of the group. Consider the size of the groups your rifle can make, and don't give in to the silly notion of putting them all through the same hole right smack in the middle of the bull.

Another failing in slow fire is that of piddling around too much. In our endeavor to get this just perfect and that just perfect we slight the most important step of all, the trigger squeeze. Or in piddling around we lose track of changing conditions and get worried and over-anxious about the score, with the result that the trigger squeeze suffers, when this is the phase of our performance that we want to make perfect and uniform under all conditions.

Cadence, from my observation of good shots with both the service rifle and the small bore, embraces the timing of ALL the operations which the firer must perform to deliver the shot after he is in position. These are loading, placing the rifle on the shoulder, sighting, squeezing the trigger, "following through" and mentally calling the shot. If we can establish a definite timing for these operations we have established our cadence, and we will find that we are saving time, concentrating better on our sight picture, and squeezing better. If these actions become habitual and unconscious we are not distracted from the principal jobs of aiming and squeezing.

After his scope has been set up and focussed on the target, his ammo block and fork placed where he wants them, and having checked his position, a shooter loads his rifle, raises it into position, checks his sight alignment, lets out his breath, re-checks his sight alignment, squeezes the trigger, "follows through" by continuing to look through his sights for a second after the shot to check up on position, and mentally calls his shot.

With experienced shots the time interval between the final settling into position with release of the breath and the actual firing of the shot is very short. This short time is spent in squeezing the trigger. Depending upon the position, it should not take more than from four to eight seconds to complete the operation. Most smallboresmen err in taking too long. They lie there attempting to align the sights to the last degree of perfection before applying decisive pressure to the trigger. They are not squeezing but are only admiring their sight picture. It looks as good at the first glance as it ever will, so squeeze it off!

After the shot goes, the firer drops his rifle off his shoulder, opens the bolt, and looks through the scope to spot the shot. If its location does not agree with his call he makes whatever correction of his sights is indicated—and looks at his sights as he makes that correction to make sure that he is turning wheels and handles in the proper

direction. He then reloads, places the rifle to his shoulder, and repeats the rest of the routine for this shot, doing everything in the same way, and at the same rate of speed, as he did for the last one.

Now of course you can't time him down to the split second on each shot. Somewhere in these operations it may be necessary for him to interrupt his cadence; to slow up. He may feel an extra puff of wind and hold everything until he decides what he will do—either wait it out or make an allowance for it. Maybe his rifle wasn't placed just right on his shoulder at the start and he noticed it by the difficulty of keeping his sights aligned perfectly. In such a case he had best take the rifle down, replace it, and start over again rather than be stubborn and attempt to muscle it into line. Maybe his pressure on the trigger was too light and indecisive to begin with and the shot wouldn't go; then the sight grew fuzzy because he had held too long, and he felt the need to breathe. Or any number of things may happen depending upon the firer's experience, confidence, and the degree of standardization which his performance has attained.

The rate of speed of the movements incident to firing will vary with individuals, but once this habitual sequence of movements is ingrained in a shooter the time intervals between any of his shots will vary surprisingly little. One of our best small bore shots performs in what appear to be nervous, jerky movements as if he were under extreme tension. But upon studying his form it is seen that these movements are only fast, and machine-like in their duplication of each other and in the time taken to perform them. No doubt he has trained himself to this fast cadence in order to have plenty of time to study conditions if a change in conditions forces him to interrupt his cadence. The cadence of other master shots whom I have observed, while slower, is none the less mechanical.

A little study of your own movements as you practice will show you where you are wasting time by making unnecessary movements, and that the varying time between your shots is due to indecisive application of pressure to the trigger once you have let out your breath. Study your performance until you have eliminated the unnecessary, disturbing, time-consuming movements. Train yourself to apply heavy pressure to your trigger at the start of the squeeze, keep steadily increasing this pressure, and WAIT, with confidence in the results, for the shot to go off.

Make that sequence of movements habitual by repeating them without variation, in practice. Practice with an empty rifle, going through exactly the same motions and actions as if you were firing a score, including glancing through your scope. Try to perform these movements at the same rate of speed each time, the rate of speed that requires the minimum exertion in order to avoid setting up a pulsation in the arm. When you have standardized this performance to a timed, habitual routine you have established your cadence. Then keep practicing until it is mechanical and second nature to you.

You are trying to approximate a machine rest in the steadiness of your position. Try also to approximate the rhythmic, repeated movements of a machine in all other phases of delivering the shot. When, as a result, you find that you can concentrate all your attention on your sights, and that your trigger squeeze is becoming mechanical, positive, and fast, you can set your goal a little higher in this sport because your scores are bound to go up.

# THE SAVAGE MODEL 1899

By ALLYN H. TEDMON

*NOTE: From time to time certain of our readers write in and ask that we give a little more attention to lever-action rifles. In compliance with this request we offer this article on one of our most famous lever-action rifles, written by a rifleman-hunter who has used these rifles for many years.—Ed.*

**T**HE MODEL 1899 SAVAGE RIFLE was designed by Arthur W. Savage, of Utica, New York. It was first brought out in the original .303 caliber, and was soon (if not at the beginning) made to take also the then-new .30-30 cartridge. The 1903 Savage catalogue stated that the Model 99 rifle could be had in .25-35, .32-40, and .38-55 calibers, in addition to the .303 and .30-30.

The Model 1899 action was quite ahead of its time, and appears even today to be a well-designed mechanism. The rifle took the American game fields by storm back in 1900. The original rifles were made with 26-inch barrels in round, octagon, and half-octagon style, of a special "smokeless" steel. The sights were the Rocky Mountain front and rear open sights that were common at that time, while the stock was graced by one of the old-style "rifle" buttplates.

The Model 99 action is composed of thirty-seven sepa-

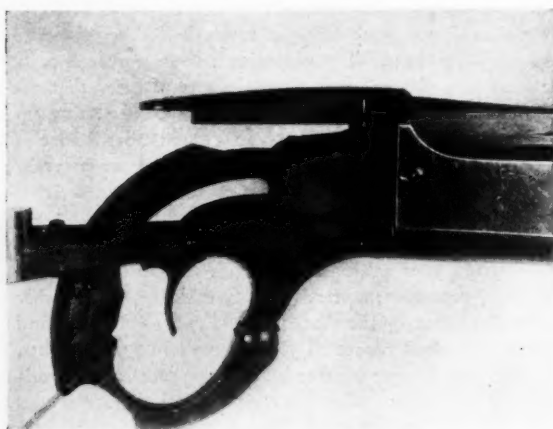
rate parts (at least I can't count any more), and is a true hammerless, even though the factory lists a "hammer" as one of the parts. This is the most easily dismantled of all our lever-action rifles. Also, when the lever goes down and the bolt comes back, the latter does not project beyond the receiver, but remains under cover. In fact, this is in my opinion one of the safest rifle actions on the market today, if for no other reason than that there is always a solid wall of steel between the shooter's face and the cartridge.

The breech bolt is simple in design and operation. Apparently this was the first rifle to use a coil mainspring, and the firing mechanism is very similar to that of the ordinary bolt-action. When the finger-lever is lowered, its forward end starts up, and this causes the rear of the bolt to move down out of contact with the locking shoulder of the receiver, the bolt then moving back into a recess in the receiver and forward part of the stock. The empty case is extracted, and then ejected to the right. In closing, as the bolt goes forward it pushes up a cartridge from the magazine below; then the forward end of the finger-lever raises the rear end of the bolt into place against the locking shoulder of the receiver, where it is wedged tight as the lever is pulled home. No locking lugs or bolts are employed. Incidentally, why this method of breech closure has never been more widely used is a mystery to me, the only other American rifle actions to make use of it being the Lee Straight Pull and the war-killed Stevens High-Power, both very safe, strong, and easily operated actions.

The magazine was an innovation at its introduction, and is a rotary box type, holding five cartridges. It has an indicator which at all times shows the number of cartridges in the magazine. It is a very easy magazine to load. With magazine empty or full, the rifle may be used as a single-loader. With the magazine empty, merely drop the car-



*Above: action open, bolt withdrawn to rear; below: action partly closed, with head of striker-rod engaging sear*



*To load, press cartridges one at a time into magazine, using thumb or finger*





tridge into the loading port, and snap the bolt shut. If the magazine is full, drop the cartridge into the port, then with the left thumb reach over the top of the receiver and hold the cartridge down hard against the automatic cutoff, then snap the bolt shut with the finger-lever. To unload the magazine, you hold the rifle in the left hand and work the finger-lever, a full swing each time, and snappy. As the cartridges are ejected, you can catch them with your right hand, or extend the fingers of your left hand up around the receiver, and catch the cartridges between your fingers and the side of the receiver.

It is almost impossible to balk the 99 action. I have had this trouble just twice in some 35 years. Once when out to shoot a steer I had a primer drop from the fired case down into the magazine. This stopped things pronto, but I got the primer out without taking the magazine apart. The other time the firing pin came loose. This was years ago, up in Wyoming, and happened as I was shooting at a coyote near a ranch I was going to visit. Once at the buildings, I rustled around and got a screw driver long enough to unscrew the stock bolt; then all was easy.

The trigger arrangement on the 99 is similar to that on some bolt-actions, though it has fewer parts and is more simple. The striker is cocked as the action is closed. The head of the striker rod engages the flat face of the sear, which holds the striker rod back as the bolt continues forward. Then as the rear of the bolt rises into its final position in full contact with the locking shoulder of the receiver, the head of the striker rod also is lifted, until there remains only a slight depth of engagement with the sear, which constitutes the trigger-pull. I have never had a Model 99 "go off" unexpectedly and without the trigger being pulled. To close the action without cocking the striker, you merely hold the trigger back as you pull the finger-lever back up. There is a trigger-lock on the lower tang just to the right of the trigger, and this also locks the lever. There is an indicator that projects at the top of the receiver behind the bolt, when the action is cocked. This never fails, and it can be easily seen as well as felt.

As to possible sights, the Model 99 has always been in a class by itself. The 1903 catalogue lists four good tang sights for the rifle, one almost identical with the present Lyman 30½. Two others are the old No. 1 standard Lyman plain and disc, and a vernier-type windgauge target sight. A very clever open barrel sight by Savage with elevation and windage is listed (I still have one in my sight box), as well as front sights of all sorts and kinds. Redfield not long ago put the Model 99 into the bolt-action class so far as rear sights are concerned. The Redfield No. 70 tang sight does not sit back quite as far as the Lyman 30½, but it is fine for the chaps who can't hold their heads up. This sight comes with exact minute-of-angle clicks, with either hunter or target knobs, and it screws to the tang right where the Lyman, Marble, and King tang sights go. Recently Lyman followed suit with their No. 56S sight, which is similar to the Redfield No. 70, and is attached without drilling holes, the same as the Redfield. As regards mounting of telescope sights, no action is more suitable than the Model 99. The scope may be located just as low as the mount will permit (on my little lightweight the Redfield Junior mount puts the scope sight-line a scant half-inch above the iron sight-line). Also, the scope can be placed exactly over the axis of the bore, as loading and ejecting are from and to the right. To get full pleasure from one of these rifles, you should have a scope on it.

It is hard to mention the Model 99 action without saying a word or two about the original .303 cartridge that Mr.

Savage designed for use in the rifle. This was a good cartridge when it came out, and it is a good one today. Originally the Savage barrels were bored .303 and the bullets made .311, but some years ago the factory changed to the standard .300 for the bore, and so far as I know most ammunition companies apparently now make the .303 bullets standard .308. In the early catalogues, six different styles of .303 Savage cartridges were listed: full charge in soft-point and full-mantle bullets; one cartridge loaded with the soft-point 190-grain bullet and 40 grains of black powder; a miniature (small-game) load with either metal-cased or cast bullet, and last, a special Schuetzen target cartridge loaded with a paper-patched bullet. The original velocity of the .303 was around 1900 feet per second; today Remington and Peters have boosted it to over the 2000-foot mark, and in the Peters 180-grain belted-bullet load the velocity is well over 2100 feet. The standard load with either 190- or 195-grain soft-point bullet has always been a good killer on deer and black bear, while on elk it will do a very good job in the hands of a man who can really shoot.

It is interesting to glance back over the years and see what this Savage rifle has done, and who have used it. In an old copy of original *Recreation* magazine (back in 1899, if I recall correctly), E. E. Jones, of Townsend, Montana, once offered to bet \$50 that he could shoot through a grizzly endwise with his .303 Savage rifle. W. T. Hornaday used a .303 Model 99 on his Canadian hunt back in 1905, and killed grizzly, sheep, goats, deer, and the like with perfect satisfaction. Dall deWeese, Colorado's most noted hunter, used this rifle for many of his hunts 25 and 30

*Rear sights suitable for the 99. Top to bottom: Lyman 30½; Lyman No. 1; Redfield No. 70-LH*



years ago. George B. ("Bear George") McClelland, of Big Horn Basin, Wyoming, had one of the original Marlin-made Savage rifles. In the December, 1900 issue of old *Recreation* is told how he killed four grizzlies with it in a hurry. I knew him well. W. J. ("Billy") Howell, the noted Cody guide, for years used a Savage .303 on deer, elk, big bear, and sheep, and turned to the Remington .35 autoloader simply because he preferred that rifle. John Crook, U. S. Biological Survey hunter in Colorado, once killed 8 coyotes just as fast as he could work his rifle—six shots out of the magazine and two single-loading. He was using a .250-3000 Savage 99.

How about the accuracy of these rifles? In the old 1903 Savage catalogue here on the desk as I write, is a group fired at 100 yards with standard full-charge .303 ammunition, 36 years ago. The group measures just 1 5/16 inches for the ten shots. Once the Savage engineers fired 1000 shots at 150 yards from a regular stock Model 1899 in .250-3000 caliber, in ten-shot strings over a period of several weeks, and not one shot went outside of a 3-inch circle. In their test-shooting at the factory they find that the Model 99 rifles are fully as accurate as the best bolt-action rifles handling the same ammunition. Paul Estey, in his little book "The Woodchuck Hunter," in comparing his three .250-3000-caliber rifles (a Winchester 54, a Sedgley-Springfield, and a Model 99RS Savage), says: "Strangely enough I can detect no difference in accuracy at 100 yards between the three rifles and I consider either one a very excellent rifle for woodchuck hunting."

And how has the 1899 action stood up under the pounding of the .250-3000 and .300 Savage cartridges? Well, my own .250-3000 Model 99 has fired many boxes of

cartridges, and is today just as tight and sound as it ever was. A few years ago the late Capt. E. C. Crossman told in *Hunting and Fishing* how the Savage factory had shot a Model 99 in .300 caliber some 500 rounds to check setback in the action. As I recall, the initial setback after the first 100 rounds amounted to only what is considered safe and normal headspace, after which no further change in the action could be detected.

My first Model 99 was in .303 caliber, had a .22-inch round barrel, was fitted with Lyman sights, and had a "rifle" buttplate. This was a most satisfactory rifle, and my pet jack rabbit load was 20 grains of Sharpshooter powder and a soft-point .32-20 bullet. The last I heard of this rifle it was in the hands of the son of a friend of mine in California. My brother had two or three of these rifles in various calibers, one being a .32-40. My own boys now have an old octagon-barrel Model 99 in .38-55 caliber—and what fun they have with it shooting low-pressure loads and cast bullets; and what a whale of a gun it is when that 255-grain soft-point bullet is boosted up to 1900 feet velocity!

The 99 action is very fast, because the lever-throw is short and the rifle cocks on the closing motion. Were I buying a new Model 99 today, I would get it in .300 Savage caliber. This cartridge has power enough for elk and even moose, and for deer it can't be beaten.

As a final word let me quote from Colonel Whelen's article in the February issue of this magazine (1939). Speaking of our lever-action rifles, the Colonel, who has had much experience with these rifles, says: "If a breech action has survived for 50 years, and still sells to as discriminating a public as our riflemen, it is surely a good one."

## THE COACH PICKS A TEAM

By JOSEPH D. CASCONE \*

TO THE COACH WHO KNOWS RIFLEMEN and who desires to form a winning rifle team, it is comparatively simple to find good men and to have that winning team. To coaches who have to work with new and unknown material, a different problem presents itself. First, there is the preliminary instruction on nomenclature, position, sighting, breathing, and trigger-squeeze. Then the problem of having his instructions put into practice, first in the prone position, then sitting, kneeling, and standing. Once the new material has had a taste of the four positions, the coach feels that he has a lot of good chickens without heads running all over the shooting classification from very good to very bad; and what's more, he will pull his hair out many a night when his very good "first-nighters" become very bad second-nighters.

So much for that part of the job. The next step is to select those individuals who have made the greatest progress. A progress chart should be kept, with two objectives in view: First, the chart should show the progress of the shooter in relation to each position he fires, as follows:

	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	Nov.	Nov.	Nov.
	4	8	12	4	8	12
John Jones—Prone	35	35	37	39	42	45
Sitting	27	26	27	25	35	40
Kneeling	20	15	21	24	30	35
Standing	6	15	20	27	30	30

Of course, to maintain this phase of the chart a constant firing course must be maintained. It is shown above on the basis of 50 points as the possible and 200 as the possible total. Any course may be substituted so long as it is kept as a constant. Using this chart, the coach may quickly see at one glance where John Jones is deficient. John Jones will therefore have to work on that position until he improves it. The novices usually learn quickly how to make good scores prone and sitting, but in kneeling and standing they are as a rule poor. It is necessary, therefore, to concentrate on these latter positions as soon as possible. One way would be to shoot four scores standing to one prone, three kneeling to one prone, and two sitting to one prone. When in doubt, consult the chart, and shoot to improve the weak position. Sometimes it's tiring and boring to a coach to sit and watch half a dozen men stand and pour

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twenty-five shots into a five-bull target. But through the scope it is quite another story. It is pleasing to watch the diameter of the shooting circle grow smaller and smaller, until the shooter begins to find the black and occasionally the bullseye, in the standing position. The old adage "practice makes perfect" has no exception in rifle shooting. This phase of the progress chart is important because each man on a team must be his own quarterback; and if he does not call them right it's his own ill luck.

The second objective of the progress chart should be to show the relation of one shooter to his team-mates; that is, the progress of each individual should be measured against the progress of the next individual. Let's take John Jones again. He has been firing for two months on B squad in the novice league. The course of fire as above indicated was four positions, five shots. Range facilities made it necessary for ten men to fire on each practice night. Well, A fires against B. The highest score of the night is ceded No. 1, the next No. 2, the next No. 3, and so forth. For example, John Doe was high man, and is therefore No. 1; Pete Roe was second high man, and is No. 2; John Jones was third high man, and is No. 3. Now, over a period of ten such practice nights, John Jones averages as follows: 10, 5, 6, 3, 5, 3, 6, 8, 2, 5, which totals 53. His average for the present time, therefore, is 5.3. This average means nothing as it stands, but, if John Doe's average is 4.1 and Pete Roe's is 4.5, and John Doe and Pete Roe are Number 1 and Number 2 low averages, respectively, and John Jones is next, then the latter is No. 3 man on the squad. In other words, if you start out with 50 novices and strive to select the best 15 for a squad, in a mathematical way and without personal discrimination, you can arrive at the best fifteen men for your squad. An objection to using ten men on one night might be that the average would not be true to the fifty men concerned. The objection is sound, but selecting the best three men from each of the five teams firing will solve that problem. And further, the same system can be used in reducing the fifteen men to 10 for a match in which 10 fire. Once the squad has been selected, the coach can add an incentive for keeping low averages by giving a key or pin to the best team man for the season.

Let's say that we have 15 men selected for our team: what becomes of the other men who tried out for a berth? That depends upon the club's resources. If ammunition is plentiful and equipment adequate, those men should be kept until they are able to qualify for medals. That will repay them for the time and interest they have shown in coming out each practice night.

Picking a team in football depends a great deal upon the coach's judgment. Like every other human being, he is capable of making a mistake. But picking a team in rifle shooting is a matter of cold mathematics: You make the scores, you make the team.

The problem still depends upon how many men one has to train. One way to keep all interested, including those who know they are very bad, is to form a novice league, say of four or five, or even six teams of the same number of men. While these men are practicing their four positions, they are getting the feel of the competitive spirit, which is highly important to the novice. A trophy for the team winning the league championship, and medals or keys for each member of the winning team, are a great incentive for better shooting. In the league thus formed, the coach must have a certain amount of knowledge of the possibility of each man, and, knowing that, he should try to

keep his talent equally distributed among the five or six teams he has set aside for his novice league. In doing this the coach may be lucky enough to discover latent talent among men who are not quick to learn, but who eventually become good shots. If the teams are composed of the top-notchers on Team A, the next on Team B, and so forth, then by the middle of the season, teams D, E, and F would suffer a high mortality, mainly because of "give-ups", or men who see no hope of ever making the team.

This novice league is only one step toward encouraging the new man on to better scores and consequently better marksmanship. Along about the three-quarter mark in the shooting of the league matches, the coach should select a good qualification course; one with a rapid-fire string in it. Novices are usually more or less romantic about their shooting, and rapid-fire seems to fill the need. It's surprising how many good scores are turned in after only twenty practice sessions, or approximately 250 rounds fired.

After firing the qualification course designated by the coach, the men are ready to go into the second stage of their shooting experience. More intensive practice should be given on weak positions after observing the progress chart. If the usual course is five shots per position, then make it twenty; in reverting to five in each position, the training will seem so much easier. This appears to work both psychologically and physically upon the shooter.

No mention has been made of instruction in sight-adjustment, and for this reason: it seems that the beginner loves to have some panacea for his shooting troubles. And it seems, therefore, that he "could have made a better score if his sights weren't off." The coach knows that grouping shots on a target, regardless of where they strike, is more important to his men in training than perfect scores. With this in mind he stresses position, breathing, trigger squeezing, sight alignment, and all the important little things which make for good or better shooting habits. If the coach should also throw in the sight *adjustment* to the novices, nine tenths of them would get shooting-indigestion, and more ammunition would be wasted than good scores made. It would be putting the cart before the horse. The better way to overcome this difficulty is to teach position, breathing, *alignment* of sights on bull, and trigger squeeze; and when on the firing line have an older man, that is, one with more experience, adjust the sights. In this manner, long before the novice is ready for his first match, he is fully aware of the importance of his sights, and will more readily accept information on their proper adjustment.

In addition to learning the adjustment of sights, the novice should be taught to *call* his shots; that is, he should be able to tell approximately where the bullet struck on the target. If he can do this, he will definitely be on his second phase of shooting. If he cannot, he must go back to position, breathing, sighting, and trigger-squeeze, until he is able to call his shots. Watch the novice who begins to call his shots correctly: he is headed for better scores and a berth on that team. The other fellow has a job on his hands; he has to analyze himself before he can make any more definite progress. First, he must take his position and see if that is right, then his sighting alignment and see if that is correct, then his breathing and see if that is done properly. His position may be bad inasmuch as he may be *straining* for good scores rather than *relaxing* into good scores. By relaxing is meant taking the most comfortable and natural position, with the least strain on the muscles. When a man has that position, it is simpler to align the sights, hold the breath, and squeeze the trigger.



# HOME GUNSMITHING

By "PROFESSIONAL"

THE BLUING OF A GUN is a simple process, accomplished with a minimum of equipment, and is well within the capabilities of any one who will observe a few simple precautions as to chemical cleanliness.

The hot-bluing processes are the most satisfactory, and for these at least one, and preferably two, tanks are necessary. These tanks should be about 40 inches in length by 5 inches in both width and depth, although 4 inches will answer for depth unless you use electric heat supplied by a hairpin-type heater, in which case 5 inches depth for the bluing tank is better than four inches.

Tanks made of 24-gauge material, either black iron or galvanized, can be easily bent to shape, using two pieces of two-by-four timber and a mallet or hammer. First draw your tank on the flat sheet with a scratch awl, drawing bottom, sides, and ends all flat, in the same plane. Place one piece of two-by-four under the sheet, along the line where one side of the tank joins the bottom. Now place the other piece of two-by-four on top of the sheet, directly over the first piece, and while standing or kneeling upon this top piece, bend the side of the tank up at right angles to the bottom. Using a mallet or hammer on the outside of the bend, hammer the metal in close to the wood. Repeat this process along the other side of the tank, and you are now ready to bend in the ends, which is a more complicated matter.

You will need a short piece of two-by-four to lay across the tank on the inside, along the line where the end joins the bottom, and another piece to go underneath this on the outside. Also, you will need two short pieces of 1-inch board, placed upright against the already bent-up side, one inside and one outside, exactly in line with the two bottom pieces. These upright pieces will have to be held together with a clamp (either a parallel or a C-clamp).

Using a hammer from the inside of the tank, start to drive the already bent-up side of the tank outward just beyond the two 1-inch pieces, and as this outward bending progresses on both of the bent-up sides, bend up the end, that is being held between the two pieces of two-by-four, bending this up just as you did the sides.

When the end is bent up there will be a triangular piece extending out at each side of it, at right angles to the sides of the tank. These pieces are now bent back along the sides of the tank, and riveted through the sides at the top with a single tinner's rivet at the acute-angle tip of the triangular piece on each side of the tank. One end of the tank is now complete, and the same process is employed to form the other end, which completes the tank.

If a large sink is available—large enough to take a barrel and receiver, one tank is all that is necessary, but if you do not have such a sink it will be necessary to make a second tank for rinsing the gun after it has been boiled in the caustic solution.

If electric current is available at low cost, and you expect to be bluing guns every once in a while, electric heat is very convenient to use, as it is steady and requires no attention. For electric heating for the main or bluing tank it is best to use the hairpin type of heater, inserting two of these into the tank, one at each end. These heaters

are fitted with threaded connections, and a hole must be cut into each end of the tank and a threaded flange riveted and soldered to the outside around each hole. These holes should be as close to the bottom of the tank as possible, but don't get them so low that a good soldered joint cannot be made between the flange and the outside of the tank at the bottom.

The hairpin heaters should be 1000-watt (one kilowatt) size, and the tank should be insulated all over with half-inch insulation such as Celotex. This main tank should have a cover regardless of what kind of heat is employed, and if electric heat is used this cover must be insulated. These heaters can usually be bought from junk houses for two or three dollars each.

A piece of hardware cloth (coarse, heavy screen) of quarter-inch mesh should be put over each hairpin heater in the bottom of the tank to prevent articles from being caught underneath it. The edges of this screen can be bent down at a right angle to support the screen along the sides, and hold it above the heater. This is merely to prevent the screen from sagging too much, as it does no harm if it touches the heater. The screen should be a tight fit inside the tank.

Regular electric hot plates can be used instead of hairpin heaters, if you like. In this case use three one-kilowatt (1000-watt) units, setting the tank directly on top of them. No insulation is required on the tank in this case, but a cover should of course be used.

If low-cost electricity is not available, but you have good gas—either natural or manufactured, this gives an excellent steady heat of high intensity. Tanks need not be insulated, as the gas flame strikes directly on the bottom of the tank, but covers should be used.

If it is necessary to use gasoline for fuel, two of the folding-type camp stoves work very well, or a regular three-burner gasoline or kerosene stove gives plenty of heat. Covers should be used on the tanks, but no insulation.

In preparation for bluing, all gun parts should first be thoroughly scrubbed with gasoline, as this keeps the tanks cleaner, and cuts down the necessary boiling time in lye water to remove grease and oil.

After the gasoline cleaning is finished, the old bluing should be removed, except on parts where it is still perfect. In this case it can be allowed to remain. If the parts are not pitted or badly scratched, the bluing can be removed by a solution of hydrochloric acid and water. It does not matter exactly what strength of mixture is used, except that if it is too strong it must be watched to prevent its pitting the steel; so begin with about a half-and-half mixture of water and acid. This is an excellent killer of rust on steel. Wear rubber gloves, and use cotton dipped in the acid solution to clean the rust and old bluing off the parts. Keep clean water and cotton on hand to wash the acid off when the action gets too violent, or fill one of the tanks with hot water, and dip the parts in to wash off the acid. After the parts have had acid applied to them they should be rubbed with steel wool or a wire brush after being rinsed in water.

If parts are pitted or badly scratched, the deeper pits and scratches can be removed with a fine flat file, and the parts can then be polished with carborundum cloth, starting with fairly coarse and finishing with fine grade. If a very high polish is desired, use a piece of heavy felt such as rubbing felt, and automobile valve-grinding compound, and follow this with crocus cloth. If you have a foot-power grinder, get some muslin wheels, apply to them emery cake of a fine grade, and polish the parts on these.

After the parts are polished, fill a clean tank with water, and add seven or eight ounces of lye or caustic soda to the water; then start the heat on the tank. Wait until all the lye or soda is dissolved, and then place the parts to be blued into this cleaning solution, and boil them for from twenty to thirty-five minutes. This wide range of time in the boiling depends upon what kind of oils or cleaners have been used on the gun. Some of our modern cleaners penetrate the steel deeply and require thirty minutes or more of boiling in lye water to remove them. The barrels of guns to be blued do not need to be filled with grease and plugged, as there is nothing in the hot-water bluing process to injure them.

The second tank should be filled with clean hot water, if hot running water is not available in a sink large enough to wash the barrel and receiver in.

After the oil and grease have all been boiled off, the parts are removed from the lye water, using wire hooks for lifting, and are placed in the other tank, containing clean hot water, and washed thoroughly to remove the lye water. After parts have been cleaned with lye or caustic soda they should not be touched with the bare hands, but should be handled with wire hooks or with clean cotton gloves. Small parts can be attached to pieces of wire before being put into the lye solution, so that they can be handled easily while being cleaned and blued. When you can buy cotton gloves, wash them with laundry soap and water, and rinse thoroughly before using them to handle gun parts during the bluing process. You will find that one pair of gloves is pretty thin for handling hot steel parts with, and that it is better to use two pairs. The inner pair can be an old pair of close-fitting fabric gloves.

While the cleaned parts are lying in the tank of clean hot water, the first tank, in which the lye or caustic soda was used, can be emptied and washed out with hot water and a clean cotton cloth, and refilled with clean hot water, and the heat started on it again.

The parts to be blued can now be sloshed around in the water of the tank in which they are lying, and can then be placed in the first tank again, ready for the bluing solution as soon as they have boiled steadily for ten or fifteen minutes. The water in this tank must be kept boiling steadily throughout the actual bluing process.

If any of the parts to be blued are casehardened, it will be necessary to etch with acid the surfaces to be blued. For this, either nitric acid or the Spencer acid mentioned in Clyde Baker's book on gunsmithing, can be used. Make a number of cotton swabs by rolling clean cotton on heavy toothpicks or on regular swab sticks obtained at the drug-store. Place the etching acid in a shallow dish of small size so that you can easily dip the swabs into it. Wait until the parts have been boiling for a few minutes, and then, lifting out the casehardened pieces one at a time, swab with the acid the surface to be blued, constantly applying fresh acid, for two or three minutes. When the surface appears to be very finely pitted, wash the part

in clean hot water, and replace it in the tank with the rest of the parts. Use a fresh swab for each piece.

I have found that a slight variation of Baker's bluing solution works very well on practically all steels. It is as follows:

1/4-ounce sodium nitrate;  
1/4-ounce potassium nitrate;  
1/2-ounce mercuric bichloride;  
1/2-ounce potassium chlorate;  
10 ounces distilled water;  
5/8-ounce sweet spirits of nitre—FRESH.

Grind the salts together in a mortar, add to distilled water at room temperature, and stir with a glass or rubber rod until the salts are all dissolved; then add the nitre, and shake vigorously for ten minutes. Do not use metal utensils of any kind in preparing this solution, and put it into a dark-brown bottle and keep it wrapped in paper to exclude all light. Also keep it tightly corked.

Put about half an inch of this solution into a clean glass jar like a small salad-dressing jar, and set this in one corner of the tank of boiling water in which the gun parts are heating. Run a heavy wire around the neck of the jar, and bend this wire closely over the edge of the tank to hold the jar in place.

The swab for applying this solution has a handle made from a piece of 3/8-inch hardwood dowel rod or other similar piece of wood which is free from resin and sap, and which you have previously boiled in lye water and then allowed to dry. Before boiling this stick in lye water, saw a slot lengthwise, about one inch long, at one end. Use common 1 1/2-inch-wide surgical dressing to form the swab on this stick. Place one end of the dressing in the sawed slot, and then wind the dressing tightly around the end of the stick, twelve or fifteen times. Tear the loose end of the dressing lengthwise down the center for two or three inches, tie a single knot in it at this point, and then, winding the two halves around the stick just back of the dressing, in opposite directions, tie the ends tightly around the stick, and cut off the remaining ends closely.

Place this swab in the solution in the salad-dressing jar, and allow it to heat all the time that the parts are heating.

When all parts have been boiling for fifteen minutes, lift one out of the water and blow all excess water out of screw-holes and off the surface so that the part is dry; then, squeezing the swab as dry as you can against the inside of the glass jar, swab the solution quickly on the surface to be blued, using full-length strokes where possible. The part should be hot enough so that the solution dries on it immediately; however, in the case of small parts this is not always possible, so blow on these the moment you have applied the solution. If this does not dry the surface at once, the part will have to be raised to a higher temperature by the aid of a gas flame or a torch, when it has been removed from the water and before the solution is applied; but do not heat it so hot that the solution sizzles when it is applied.

Cover the surfaces of a part to be blued evenly with the solution, and get the piece back into the hot water as soon as possible. Take another part out of the water and apply solution to it, and continue until all parts have had one coating of the solution. Then, returning to the first part, give it a second coat, and follow through with the rest of the parts in sequence. Do the same a third time, and then remove the jar of solution from the tank, dump what is left of the solution, and wash out the jar.

# NEW SPOTTING SCOPES

## A DOPE BAG REVIEW

THE B. & L. 50-MM. PRISMATIC SPOTTING SCOPE became very popular with American shooters, largely through the efforts of R. G. Walker while he was directing its sales for Bausch & Lomb, and the efforts of Dr. Fassin, then an important staff member of the same firm's Scientific Bureau. Now both these specialists, having left their former haunts, are offering some stiff competition to that same B. & L. scope by conceiving, developing, and finally presenting the new prismatic Argus spotting scope for their new affiliation, the International Research Corporation, of Ann Arbor, Michigan. This firm is best known perhaps through its popular line of Argus candid-cameras and photographic equipment, but it is completely equipped with all the necessary manufacturing facilities for making these scopes, lenses and all; English glass being used.

This new Argus "Spotscope" has been prominently advertised in the past two months, but production samples of the scope were not released until Mr. Walker and Dr. Fassin were satisfied that it had been thoroughly fumigated and all preliminary "bugs," inevitable in new designs, were killed to the last microbe. As a result the test scope came too late to permit our publishing a review of it in an earlier issue, although we have had more than one pilot model, the last of which was that tried at Camp Perry last fall. Judging from the sample which finally arrived, these two men have a right to feel gratified over their thoroughness and proud over their accomplishment. Judging from their advertising claims, their objective was to meet the exacting requirements of the target shooter, and save him some money at the same time.

Apparently the Argus "Spotscope" does exactly that. The price is \$45.00 list, plus \$5.00 for each extra eyepiece, plus \$5.00 for the leather carrying case, and less the 10% discount which many supply houses grant shooters. The scope has practically the same proportions as the well-

known 50-mm. B. & L. prismatic, and it weighs only 3 ounces more. But it has a 55-mm. free-aperture objective, or a slightly larger diameter. The extended length is 14- $\frac{5}{8}$  inches, and the weight is 43 ounces. There also is an Argus tripod available, as shown in the cut.

The general mechanical design and construction are conventional. Offset, the eye-end has a knurl for convenient turning for close focus, and it is protected by a metal cap threaded on the solid body. The objective end projects beyond the lens to serve as a sunshade, and it is threaded to receive its metal dust cap. The eyepieces have two features which permit convenient spotting and comfortable view of the full breadth of the field while goggles are worn. These are a sloped shape and long eye relief. The three choices of magnification are 12.8X, 20X, and 26X. The 20X eyepiece is furnished as standard, the other two being optional. The color of the scope is black; the finish, glossy and crackle.

With the 20X eyepiece in place, the optical characteristics are: an eye relief of 14-mm. (over  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch); exit pupil, 2.8-mm. in diameter, and field of view of 11 $\frac{1}{3}$  feet at 100 yards. The large 55-mm. objective aperture should give greater resolving power and image brightness as compared with scopes of the same quality and magnifying power but having smaller objective apertures. This seems to be the case in using this new Argus instrument, although we have made no scientific check on the matter.

All in all, the makers of this new scope have apparently reached the goal for which they headed with this glass. If this is really so, they have performed a real service for shooters, especially small-bore competitors. Each and every "Spotscope" is sold with a guarantee which permits the buyer to use it a week, with the privilege of returning it for a full refund of its cost price, including any transportation charges which might be involved.

In an early issue we hope to publish a report of our uniform-condition test of several popular spotting scopes in all price classes, at which time this new Argus scope will receive the same consideration and treatment as all other makes and models—no more and no less.

We have also received a sample of the Wollensak Vari-power telescope in 15 x 40 size, which will be put through the same paces in comparison with the Mossberg spotting scope in the same price class. This Wollensak lists at \$16.50. It has three draws, plus the eyepiece slide which is graduated and marked in magnifications of 15, 20, 30, and 40 times. It is 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and opens to nearly 27 inches when fully extended. The weight is 20 ounces, and the diameter of the objective lens, 1- $\frac{7}{16}$  inches (37-mm.). The advantage of the Vari-power arrangement is that the power can be quickly and conveniently changed to suit the immediate condition, the eyepiece being simply pushed in for more magnification and pulled out for more light.

Wollensak Rambler is a new low-price field glass at \$9.75 with leather case and neck strap. It is a 4-power with 33-mm. objectives and a field of 255 feet at 1000 yards. The weight is 8 ounces; the width, 4- $\frac{3}{16}$  inches. The height ranges from 3- $\frac{3}{8}$  to 3- $\frac{1}{16}$  inches, from collapsed to extended. We have not seen one as yet.





# The Old Coach's Corner

## *Reaching for the Stars*

**I**N SOME RESPECTS RIFLE-SHOOTING is like other sports such as baseball, golf, and tennis. You have to play it in good form, your technique must be right, and it takes hard work, much study, and a long time, to reach the top. No man ever made a major-league team, got into the Davis Cup finals, or climbed well up among the winners in the big rifle matches, in his first year or two.

In two respects, however, rifle-shooting is quite different from other major sports: it takes no god-given physique or strength to reach the top. A good shot needs only average good health and eyesight, either without or with glasses. He does not have to be an athlete. Also, unlike other sports, in rifle-shooting, if he starts right (as I have explained in a previous article), in an amazingly short time he acquires a very remarkable degree of skill. Indeed he may easily reach an average of 98 per cent in a few weeks in his prone shooting. There is no other sport that I know of where he can get so high in so short a time.

But this success at the start is liable to give the beginner a very wrong conception of things. Too often he thinks that because he reached 98 per cent in a couple of months, he has unusual natural ability, and that in a couple of months more he should be among the winners in the big matches. And because he cannot make it in that time, in his first season, he gets discouraged and quits the game. The statistics of the N.R.A. show, apparently, that many promising young shooters quit for this reason. But Why? They would not have expected to reach the top in one year in other sports. The top rank has never been reached except after years of hard training and study. If it were otherwise the top would not be worth reaching. I say hard training, not hard work, because any man, to succeed, must like the work. A good game of baseball, golf, or tennis is a lot of fun, leaves the player in fine mettle, and is not work, but play. A day of match-shooting, or even of practice, is likewise good sport, and should not be work. The aspirant for high honors must enjoy his sport or he will soon go stale and quit.

As I have said, it is easy to reach the 98 per cent mark. All that is needed is to start right—first learn the prone position thoroughly so you can hold steady in it without effort, then a week of dry-shooting at home to coordinate aiming and squeezing with holding. All this before you take your rifle to the range or fire a single shot through it. Then range practice, combined with learning and applying a few simple rules of sight adjustment and wind allowance. A week of dry-shooting, six afternoons on the range, and you are keeping most of your shots in the ten-ring. But there is a whole lot of difference, and time and work, between a score of 98 and a score of 100 with sixty per cent X's, which is needed to be well up among the winners in a big match. Let's look at just a few of the details that have to be mastered by those who wish to "reach for the stars."

Take first of all this prone position which you thought was easy because you apparently learned it so quickly. Actually, you only quarter-learned it, and you must perfect it. Let me go quickly over a few details. A fairly good position may give you a score of from 96 to 98, but to put them all in, your position must be absolutely right in every

respect. Particularly you must not be under any strain to bring your sights to a perfect aim. Take your rifle down, close your eyes, get into position again, and then open your eyes. With no further movement your sights ought at least to rest in the 6-ring. It should take no muscular exertion or strain at all to hold on the X-ring: If it does, you are faced too much to the right or to the left, or your elbows are not placed right. You will probably have to shift your whole body to face at a slightly different angle, or even move sideways so that your elbows will be in different place on the sod, to get a position without strain; but get it you must. In an article some time ago I spoke of the desirability of arriving at the firing-point as early as possible in a match, so that you will have plenty of time to get a good position—to wriggle around and experiment until you are comfortable and without strain.

You must not lift your left elbow from its spot on the ground during your entire score—if you do you will almost certainly go out for a nine, at least. That elbow must go into its place, and stay there, and your position must be without strain when it is there, from the first sighting shot on. And also have your spotting scope so located that you do not have to do more than tilt your head to see through it. Rolling over or straining to spot your shots is fatal to possibles. It takes a lot of shooting, and a lot of self-study, to be able to get this prone position just right every time you lie down.

It is my firm conviction that no one can get (and keep) in hard training for prone shooting—even the shooter who has shot in championship form the previous year—until he has shot at least three times a week for a month. That is necessary to harden the muscles and make the position entirely comfortable. Perhaps if you can get to the range only on Saturdays or Sundays, you can make up for the other two days a week by a lot of careful dry-shooting every day. The boxer practices shadow-boxing and punching the ball, every day, and you need the corresponding exercise also.

Next you cannot hope to reach the top without the best tools. Common sense will tell you that you cannot learn to make consistent tens and X's if your rifle and ammunition will only group in  $2\frac{1}{4}$  minutes. In these days of super-fine match rifles, it is seldom that the rifle itself is at fault, unless you have monkeyed with its bedding or otherwise maltreated it. Usually if a rifle won't group it is because of the ammunition. Read *THE RIFLEMAN* carefully, and you will soon find that the winners of the big matches are using just three or four varieties of cartridges. That does not mean that all of these will shoot finely in your rifle: one or two will probably shoot far better than the others. Get samples of all the three or four celebrated makes, even if you have to write direct to the manufacturers for them. Try these, select the best, and then get a year's supply of that make—and be sure it comes from the same lot.

It is often hard to get the best ammunition because it is difficult for the manufacturers to produce it in any great quantity—it has to be made so carefully. Often there has been a shortage, when only those on the inside could get the best, and the others have had a different lot panned off on them. Recently one large company announced that it had solved the problem of pro- (Continued on page 36)

# MOUNTAIN GUNSMITHING

By W. O. HARRIS

YOU DO NOT HAVE to pay \$75 or \$100 for a Kentucky rifle in A-1 condition, for there are still living a few Blue Ridge Mountain gunsmiths who will make you a brand-new Kentucky muzzle-loading rifle for from \$20 up, depending upon workmanship and the amount of ornamental inlaying in brass, silver, or gold involved. And they turn out some handsome work, these old mountain gunsmiths.

In *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN* for March, 1937, the author had a short article entitled *Old Blue Ridge Mountain Gunsmiths*, telling a few things about these old fellows who are getting almost as scarce as the blue ranks of the G. A. R. "Uncle John" Kesselring, of Thurmont, Frederick County, Maryland, is still doing fine work, and Mr. Elmer P. Wolf, of Foxville, Maryland (post office address, Lantz, Frederick County, Maryland), is doing a good business.

Mr. Wolf has never done anything in his 70 years of life but gunsmithing. He recently made for me a .50-caliber muzzle-loading rifle, Kentucky type, with beautiful stock and long forearm, all trimmed with brass, for *eight dollars!*—I did furnish the barrel, one I had picked up in an antique shop in Gaithersburg, Maryland, which Mr. Wolf rebored to .50 caliber. The complete rifle weighs approximately twenty pounds.

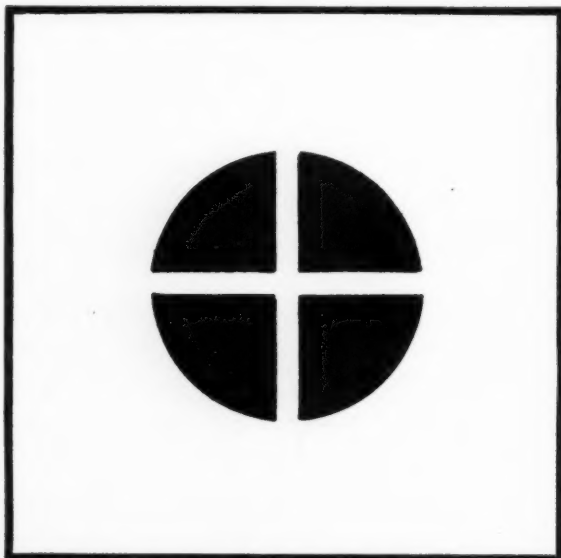
I was up at Mr. Wolf's shop not long ago, and found that he had installed all new machinery, and was finishing a beautiful Kentucky patch-gun of about .40 caliber for a gentleman in Florida. It certainly was a wonderful job in curly maple. What I like about Mr. Wolf is that he is so reasonable in his charges. And he does all kinds of gun work. He says that he is going to make for me a 1.00-caliber (one-inch bore) muzzle-loading rifle some day if he can get a piece of steel large enough for the barrel. This .50-caliber gun he made for me is a beauty, and shoots right where you hold it. Recently I tried it out at 45 yards on a half-pint tin can, which was riddled until there was nothing much left but some twisted tin. The .50-caliber soft lead bullet makes a hole just about an inch square. What a load for a bear!

Sometime when you are motoring up around Frederick, Gettysburg, or Hagerstown, Maryland, drop around to Thurmont, and then take the road up to Lantz, which is only a couple of miles from Thurmont; and then cut over to Foxville, and see Mr. Wolf and his shop, and the rifles that he makes. It is almost as good as a visit to the "House of Shiff."

## SCOPE-SIGHT TARGET

By PERRY D. FRAZER

HOW'S THIS for a scope-sight target, at 100 and 200 yards? There are several reasons why I made up targets of this pattern, for group shooting at both ranges with telescope-sighted rifles, and using a spotting scope. The



white lines are easier to define than black lines would be, and are less trying on the eyes; also they help one in spotting. And the target is very simple to make. For a stencil, use a piece of cardboard, cutting out the four segments (marked black in the accompanying design) with a safety-razor blade. Then lay the card on a sheet of tough white paper, mix a little lampblack with crude oil, tie a piece of cotton around a short stick, and smear the black neatly in the four holes. This will give a grayish black in which bullet holes may be seen more readily through the spotting scope than if dead black or glossy black is used; and pasters will stick readily. The color does not smear, ordinarily, but if it does add a trace of linseed oil, in mixing.

For 200 yards a 10-inch sighting bull seems better than a smaller one, and for 100 yards make the bull 5 inches. The white cross-bars should be about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch for 100 yards, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch for 200. Suit yourself about that.

Another way to make these targets is to use a segment of cardboard as a pattern by which to cut four pieces of the sort of thin black paper that sensitive photographic materials are packed in; and then paste these segments on white paper. Some of this paper is dull black, and this is to be preferred to the glossy stuff. Either way, making up a few targets takes little time. A third method is to paste strips of white gummed paper across the bull's-eye of a standard target.

# SINGLE-SHOT RIFLES

By J. V. K. WAGAR

*NOTE: The author of this article is an outdoorsman by nature and profession, a rifleman-hunter of wide experience, and a fervent worshipper of the grooved barrel. Single-shot rifles, of many different types and calibers, have played (and still play) their part in his experience, and he has undertaken to write for us a series of articles about them. This is the first.—Ed.*

THE YOUNG HUNTER, EAGER to make a bag comparable with those of the oldsters he knows, will seldom equip himself with anything less than the latest and most effective repeating rifle. The inexperienced shot, excitable in the presence of game, seriously handicaps himself with a single-shot rifle. The hunter of far countries, with a great investment of money stacked against all too short a time, cannot afford to carry any but the latest, most efficient rifle. But when one has killed much game and knows rather well how he can shoot under field conditions, how his nerves perform in moments of surprise or in tight places, and how nimbly his fingers can simulate the repeating functions of other rifles, he rather enjoys betting his ability against the chance of coming home empty-handed—or, if he tackles too great odds, of not coming home at all.

Thus a handicap assumed by the skillful hunter is one reason for using single-shot rifles. There are three other reasons: (1) Due to the shortness of falling-block actions, these are most desirable when one wants a compact rifle without sacrificing the ballistic excellencies of a good length of barrel. (2) Many men like single-shot rifles because the greatest development of these arms coincided with the greatest days of American hunting. (3) A last reason lies in the ability of Winchester and Farquharson actions to shoot the .30-40 Krag and similar cartridges at higher pressures than the Krag and 95 Winchester actions can safely withstand.

## The Sharps Hammer Action

The Sharps Side-Hammer action is probably the most famous of all single-shot actions, for even folk who are not riflemen know of it, so indelibly did its use in the Civil War and on the plains of buffalo-hunting days stamp its name upon literature and history. In fact, literature often credits the use of Sharps rifles with the origin of the term "sharpshooter," but history cites frequent uses of the term before the Sharps rifle was invented.

The Sharps first became well known as a breech-loading percussion carbine, bearing the dates September 12th, 1848, and October 5th, 1852, and firing a linen cartridge which held ball and powder together. With considerable accuracy and great speed of fire in comparison with that of muzzle-loading rifles, this rifle was quite popular despite the great escape of gas and smoke between the barrel breech and the almost vertically sliding breechblock. (We who flinch occasionally with 10½-pound .22-caliber rifles are ashamed after experiencing the conflagration which accompanies the firing of Sharps carbines and earlier, flintlock rifles.)

This escape of gas necessitated two things, which, as much as anything later, made Sharps rifles unpopular. I refer (1) to the great width of action required to provide, within the receiver, sufficient width of vent on either side of the barrel to quickly lower the pressure incident to discharge before the shooter could be bothered by it, and to permit sufficient bearing between the breechblock and

breech to at least partially seal the explosion; and (2) to the necessity of having the hammer and trigger mechanisms apart from the breechblock, so that they could not be fouled by the soot of black powder.

The result was an action fully 2.2 inches in width (including the sidelock hammer), which makes a much bulkier rifle than the neater Winchester, Ballard, Sharps-Borchardt, and Stevens rifles which followed. Under one's leg in a saddle scabbard, such bulk makes for discomfort, and in the gun cabinets where most rifles are now kept, I notice that the bulky Sharps rifles are always bumping other treasures. Only Springfield single-shot army rifles are nearly as thick as the old Sharps, and their sidelock design was a holdover from muzzle-loading percussion-lock muskets, or even from flintlock construction. Then, too, those who carried muskets often used them with bayonets, which demand a more heavily constructed arm than one used merely for shooting.

The gas leakage of percussion-lock Sharps rifles necessitated occasional thorough cleaning of the breechblock and receiver, and to permit dismounting for such cleaning without the use of a screwdriver, the pin which serves as the axle for the finger-lever is retained by a right-angled projection rotating into a recess in the receiver, and kept there by a spring and plunger. This device, together with the fact that the breechblock of a side-hammer Sharps is not complicated by hammer and trigger parts, makes the breechblock of this rifle more quickly and easily removed for cleaning than in any other well-known falling block, breech-loading rifle.

Many percussion-lock Sharps carbines were later converted to breech-loading metallic-cartridge rifles firing some of the heaviest charges used during black-powder days. A downward-striking firing pin without a rear cover plate was used on both converted Civil War Sharps carbines and early Hartford Sharps metallic-cartridge rifles. Since the hammer was off to one side and did not cover the firing pin directly back of the primer, a burst primer usually stung one's forehead with bits of metal. Later Sharps rifles, principally those made at Bridgeport, Connecticut, and bearing the patent date of April 6, 1869, have a cover plate over the firing pin, thus protecting the shooter.

The Sharps firing pin is not very efficient. It is a U-shaped affair with the point of the left-hand side of the U striking the primer when the hammer strikes behind the right-hand side. Not infrequently the point of the firing pin breaks off because of the spreading strain effected by this peculiar construction. I realize that it is heresy, or worse, to criticize the Old Reliable Sharps, but I have had, and have seen, too many broken Sharps firing pins to evade the issue. Furthermore, because the hammer of the Sharps does not strike directly in line with the firing-pin striker, or even at a slight angle with it, and because the firing pin strikes the primer at a 70-degree angle from the plane of the cartridge head, much of the striking force



of the hammer is lost through friction, and the fulminate is crushed against the side of the anvil rather than against the end of it. In my shooting I use a great number of old primers as well as the most modern ones, and none of the many Sharps I own and have owned has fired old primers with the certainty that I obtain with my Winchester, Springfield, Ballard, Wesson, Maynard, and Stevens Model 44 single-shot rifles.

The construction of the Sharps firing pin does, however, permit a very simple cam to retract the firing pin as the breechblock is lowered, and allows the blow of the hammer to be absorbed by the right-hand side of the breechblock rather than by the metal of the breechblock immediately back of the chamber, and thus prevents bulged breechblock faces.

It has often been said that the falling block of Sharps rifles is easily traced, in modified form, down through most of our truly fine single-shot rifles. This is undoubtedly true, but the really clever invention in Sharps rifles was the use of the familiar toggle joint in locking the breechblock securely into place. A toggle joint consists of two

links and three pins. In Sharps rifles, the upper pin fastens the upper link to the breechblock, the middle pin fastens the lower end of the upper link to the upper end of the lower link (which is the front end of the finger or under lever), and the third pin fastens the lower end of the lower link (finger lever) to the receiver. In the closed position of the action, the middle pin of the toggle joint is slightly ahead of a line drawn between the two other pins, and any tendency for the breechblock to be forced downward during discharge is thus securely resisted by the tremendous leverage of the finger lever. Then, with spring tension applied to the finger lever by means of an under-barrel spring, Sharps hammer rifles were kept securely locked without resorting to special finger-lever locks such as the British have used on their Henry and Farquharson falling-block actions.

Practically all Sharps hammer rifles were well made and very durable, although they varied considerably in design during the years when they were made. I have never seen one burst by any black-powder charge fired in it, but I doubt that the action can stand our most modern pressures. The case-hardened receiver is not capable of withstanding as much tension as modern steels and finishes, and the short inside corner behind the breechblock well introduces a factor of weakness not found in straight side-walls.

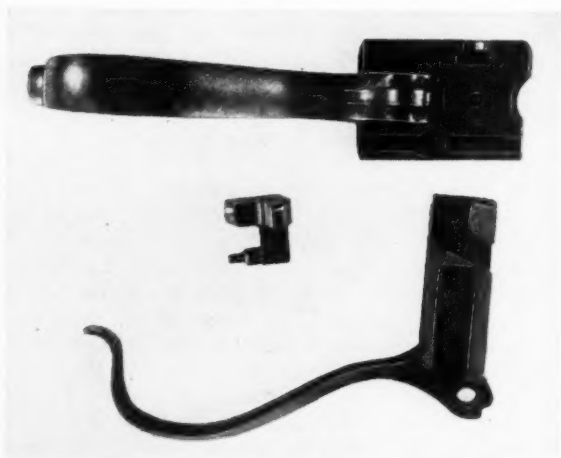
Great power of extraction was afforded by the long finger lever of the Sharps rifle, but the extractor itself was long and slender in comparison with those of other actions, and occasionally broke. Col. Frank H. Mayer once told me that he had ordered Sharps rifles made with two extractors—one on each side, and that these gave far greater certainty of extraction than did the single extractors regularly supplied. I have had a few Sharps rifles in which the extractors fitted loosely, sometimes permitting the rim of a cartridge case to slip ahead of the extractor and thus render the arm useless until the cartridge could be pushed out with a cleaning rod. This trouble can easily be remedied by having a welding shop add a little metal where it is most needed to tighten the extractor in its guides.

The finger levers on both Sharps hammer and Sharps-Borchardt rifles have very little play in them, and are so shaped that one does not hold enough of them with one's trigger hand to be bothered by any looseness if it does occur. This fact, and the admirably smooth and crisp trigger-pulls on most Sharps rifles, added to their one-time popularity for target shooting. Then, too, most Sharps rifles were far better stocked than were contemporary arms. Many that I own have the finest shotgun buttstocks, checkered steel buttplates, high combs, and woods that one can desire.

A few Sharps hammer actions were fitted with barrels made by other makers. George Schoyen, one-time famous gunsmith of Denver, Colorado, turned out several beautiful Sharps rifles with .32-40 and .38-55 barrels of his own make, and I have seen Sharps actions with barrels by British gunmakers on them. Today, however, few barrel makers employ Sharps hammer actions. The blow of the great hammer seems out of proportion with the firing of the light cartridges now in favor, and the bulk of the great action is not easily overlooked. So it is that most Sharps hammer rifles are shot with the original barrels on them, or are kept only as relics. Some would have us believe that, for some strange reason that we cannot hope to understand, the art of rifle-making passed with the Sharps; but the truth of the matter is that better rifles have replaced the hammer Sharps. *(To be continued)*



*Upper: Top and side views of side-hammer Sharps action. Two different rifles are shown, but the actions are identical. Lower: Front and side views of breech-block, with lever attached, and top view of firing-pin*



# CAVEAT EMPTY

A ONE-ACT PLAY

By PAUL GOULD

**P**ROBABLY EVERY one of you has had the experience of trading guns with a secondhand dealer. The following may therefore provide a bit of reminiscence for you.

*Scene.* A couple of rooms that look as if they had been filled with the remains of the Retreat from Moscow, and then struck by lightning, tornado, and the Police Wrecking-Squad. There is everything you want here. Everything. But if you try to find it by a systematic search, inevitably a few hours later a doctor and a couple of gorillas come in, calm you down as much as possible, and then put you in a strait-jacket and take you away. Prices are plainly marked on little stickers stuck on all the various guns, knives, sword canes, cartridge boxes, the only trouble being that every once in a while all the stickers fall off and are put back at random, making it all terribly confusing. It, in other words, is the usual second-hand gun store.

*Personae.* The presiding genius of this menagerie is generally out. However, on *this* occasion he is there, hard-eyed, embittered, adamant.

Then there is always a friend of the dealer hanging around. What this friend does for a living, or where he goes when the junk shop is closed, is one of life's mysteries. However, he is always there when *you* come in to swap, ready with his unwanted suggestions, his unasked quotations.

And lastly there is *You*, who come in as the curtain rises, ready to swap your beloved .33 WFC for a gun of smaller caliber, say a nice new Hornet or something.

(CURTAIN RISES)

*You:* I have here a .33 WFC in beautiful condition, shoots like a .22 target rifle, trigger pull so extremely light you practically have to push it, sighted to 3/100000ths of an inch, Bosch-Magneto sights, carries spare razor blades in the stock, that I'd like to trade.

*Dealer:* (To establish cordial relations right off the start) Where'd you steal it? We don't buy no hot stuff here, Buddy.

*You:* (In Pickwickian indignation) Sir? This is my gun, my own. I bought it during the war.

*Friend:* (Starting in) What? You was in the Revolution?

*You:* No, my good fellow. This is not a relic of the Revolutionary War, but a brand-new gun that I've just shot myself a few times.

*Friend:* Oh, you shot yourself with it. Hey, George, no wonder he wants to get rid of it cheap.

*You:* (Paying no attention to low comedy) I noticed that you have a 7 mm. Mauser over in the corner there. I would like to make a trade. You can give me ten dollars to make up the difference in value.

*Dealer:* (After several strangling, wolf-like noises) Ten bucks! What are you going to do, throw in the Eiffel Tower?

*You:* No, but you know that my gun is a very superior one.

*Friend:* Guy down the street sells them .33's for ten bucks apiece—he's glad to get rid of them.

*Dealer:* (He now goes into his act, with the assistance of his friend) Let's see, now, Buck. What's the list price on these .33's wholesale?

*Friend:* Fifteen ducats.

*Dealer:* (Trying to be much fairer than that) Oh, no, Buck, I think it's fifteen ninety-five.

*Friend:* Oh, yeah, that's in single lots.

*You:* (Desperately) Why, this gun costs fifty-four dollars new. (All three of you are stretching it a little—just a little.)

*Friend:* Yeah, but that gun of yours has been abused. Look at that stock. Take a look down the barrel (looks, and shudders as in agony).

*You:* (As who wouldn't?) Why, I take exquisite care of my guns. Clean and oil them every night, wrap them up in special gunny sacks . . . (going off into an interminable harangue about how you take care of your guns). Anyways, that 7mm. Mauser isn't so good, is it?

*Friend:* (Suddenly shouting as if he were calling a sailor down from the crow's nest during a blizzard) The 7mm? Why, don't you realize the demand for a 7mm. Mauser today? The Olympic team—cops—Ed McGivern—Annie Oakley—why they wouldn't no more be without their 7mm. than you would walk down the main street without no pants on!

*Dealer:* (throwing gasoline on the fire to put it out) Look at that manufacturer's mark on the 7mm., "D.W.M." Do you know what that means—"D.W.M.?" That means "Done Work Marvelous." That's the German manufacturer's own admission that he done a good job on this gun.

*You:* (Beginning to waver under this barrage) But does it shoot well?

*Friend:* (Scornfully) Does it shoot well! I'm surprised at your ignorance, Mr. Who-ever-you-are. Why, you take a child, or a woman, or even you for instance—take any cluck like that, and give you a 7mm. and you can't miss the target.

*Dealer:* Why, it's got that new German patented electro-magnetic sight on it, you know, where you paste a piece of steel on the target, and it draws on the front sight of your gun so hard that it takes a powerful man to make the gun miss the center of the target.

*You:* (Going down, *spurlos versunkt*) Well, all right, how do you want to trade?

*Dealer:* (Now he gets in his real work. Ah, if only John Barrymore were here to witness *this* performance. The Dealer puts his arm around your shoulders, and shields you from a harsh world where unscrupulous scoundrels sell worthless junk to innocent victims. His voice assumes the assuaging peace of a Benedictine Monk comforting a young mother bereft of her child. His touch is the tender yet chaste touch of a poet, rhapsodizing in the beauty of his love) My friend . . . I wouldn't sell this gun to my own aunt for less than forty bucks. I wouldn't take six .33 WCF's with platinum stocks and Lyman gold beads for it. But you appeal to me. I like you. I just can't help it. I'll tell you what I'll do. (Continued on page 35)

# LET'S GO . . . TO PRESS

By H. DEWITT ERK \*

IF YOU KNOW ANYONE who does not like to see their name in print, it may be true, but don't try to convince a reporter or editor. They have a special laugh for such a statement.

Taking for granted, then, that newspaper men really do know human nature, and that all successful organizations do secure good publicity, let's go to press!

The National Rifle Association guides and leads the way in publicity the same as it does in all other activities connected with rifle and pistol shooting, but it can and should do only a national job. It is up to the rank and file of local club, sectional league, and state association to take advantage of the prestige and authority of a strong, established national body. When you end a story with, "The Blank Club is affiliated with The National Rifle Association," or begin one with, "The Third Annual Small Bore Rifle Match of the Blank Club will be conducted under the rules of The National Rifle Association," it goes a long way to establish the standing of your club in the eyes of the editor.

The purpose of this article is to attempt to show how local and sectional news stories can be obtained. Many clubs have never made a real effort, many others have tried and failed; but why not try again? It will help your club to grow, and will assist in keeping a good club from slipping.

Probably much of this will appear "elementary" to those who have had experience and success in publicity work, but to many it may be a help, as it would have been to me a year ago. In fact, it was only two years ago that I read my first copy of *The American Rifleman*, and wondered what an "X" was. So, if what I have to say sounds simple and easy, it is because it is if you can get your man interested. That is the first point . . . appoint a publicity man, and do not burden your over-worked secretary with this. If you cannot get a man in your organization, try to interest a student in a local college or high school journalism class. Approach the teacher with your problem, and you will get a bright boy or young man who will be glad to do the work for the practical experience and the thrill of seeing his "stuff" in print. Pay him off with a membership, and you will have made a new rifleman and obtained a good publicity man for practically nothing.

One of the greatest handicaps in securing publicity is that too often the news is stale when it reaches the paper. Someone may be able to explain satisfactorily to an editor why a match fired Sunday is not reported until Tuesday or Wednesday, but I have never been able to get the story across. If you cannot get your story in the same day the match is fired, or the next morning at the latest, my advice is not to turn it in at all. The more hours in advance of presstime, the better. Typewrite it, double-spaced and if you do not condense it, the editor will. If time is short he will not bother to condense it, but will file it in the waste basket. In such cases, blame yourself. Oh, how often my own "pretty words" found the waste basket, until a kind and friendly sports editor gave me some advice! After you have had a 200-word story cut to 50 words a few times, you will catch on! Save the editor trouble and work, and you will save your story.

\* Publicity Officer, Ohio Rifle and Pistol Association.

Write your item so that a 10-year-old child will understand it . . . the Phi Beta Kappa surely will. Remember, that while technical and trade terms are familiar to you, they may not be to the readers, or to the editor either. For example, say, "Jones and Smith both fired a perfect score of 400 (don't call it a "possible"). Smith was ranked first with 32 X's, which are dead-center shots."

Be sure to get as many names as possible into a local story; as many different cities as possible into a state-wide article. Use two or three adjectives to describe the lead personalities in any report; as, "A blue-eyed, comely, modern Annie Oakley won the fifty-yard match today from an entry of 105 of the 'stronger sex.'" Or, "Twenty-one-year-old student wins place on International Dewar rifle team"; or, "President of local school board wins big match".

Photographs are an important part of publicity. If you do not succeed in securing a newspaper photographer, there are always some good amateurs among your membership, and if you can hustle them enough to get a print in a hurry, you have an excellent chance of getting it published, if it has news value. A sure-fire picture is one of a junior about twelve or thirteen years old, with your eldest shooter, showing the wide-spread appeal of the shooting game. It is always worth while to mention the fact that our sport is one of the few that can be enjoyed over the years, and participated in by men, women, and boys of all ages. Another good photograph is, of course, a pretty girl—or the whole group of Annie Oakleys.

Radio is also good publicity. It may not be practical, locally, to broadcast a match, but last year before our Midwest match at Fort Hayes Barracks, Columbus, a local sports commentator interviewed a number of our State Association officers, and the program seemed to go over very well.

Another method of publicity worked out by our State Association is an arrangement with the Ohio Conservation Bulletin for two pages of rifle and pistol news each month. This Bulletin is the official publication of the Conservation Department of the State of Ohio. Our two pages are edited by the appointed officers of the Ohio Rifle and Pistol Association, and therefore serve as the monthly bulletin and official organ of the Association. A year's subscription is given with annual membership. Most shooters are interested in conservation in some form, and of course enjoy the balance of the magazine as well. The regular subscribers have the opportunity to read our rifle and pistol news, which leads to the possibility of interesting them in our game. There are similar publications in twelve states, where this plan might possibly be used.

In first approaching your local sports editors, you have a selling job to do. Most of them want to print news that will interest the greatest number of people. Don't be discouraged because you may have only ten or twenty members in your club. Casually mention that John Smith is a foreman at the railroad shops (the editor will know that John's 100 or 1000 employees and fellow workers will be interested in John's score), or that Dr. Smith is a member of your club. A smart editor will also realize that each of your members probably belongs to a church, a lodge, an American Legion post, a club, etc. Therefore, one thousand or more people may know of each member, a total of 10,000 people



for a club of 10, who will be interested in seeing news of your members! One of our members is a teacher in a large school, another an official of a company employing 1000 men and women. Our junior club has members from four large high schools and a great university. That represents thousands of people who will recognize a member's name in print. Your club, league, or association has the same. *Gently* suggest this to your newspaperman.

Sometimes questions of policy come up. I have been told by some professional publicity men that it is best to "play ball" with one man or one paper . . . to give them everything exclusive, and then one will receive more space. I have seen this work out, but, on the other hand, you can rarely go wrong if you give your news to all papers and all press associations at the same time. However, be sure to treat all alike, getting them the story at the same time. Personally, I have always found that the paper will shoot square with you if you do likewise.

In all this local or sectional work, please do not neglect to tie up with The National Rifle Association. Mention your national and state association as often as possible.

When you see a notice in *THE RIFLEMAN* suggesting that you do something, *do it!* For example, it was suggested that your local paper would run Camp Perry news if you asked for it; that special stories would be furnished by the staff at Perry, on request. We made the request, and this year there was three or four times as much Perry news in the local papers as ever before. Easy? Yes, if you *do it!*

Above all, be sure to thank the editor or reporter by phone or note, promptly. It may be that you can thank a person too often, but I have never found it to be so, in business or elsewhere.

The new classification system provides an opportunity to include more names in reporting results of matches; and as a parting shot, let me suggest that you get all the names possible in your story. Did you ever wade through the list of hostesses at the horse show or some other event mentioned on the society pages (the editors know the women do), or the names of a squad of forty football players to be taken on a trip (names you never see in the line-up)? Editors like names. Let them have them, and help your club and our wonderful sport and game!

## AN IMPROVED 69

By W. E. DANCY

WITH THE ADDITION of a Lyman receiver sight, Winchester swivels, and a regulation leather gun sling, the Winchester 69 is a splendid hunting .22, and will perform in a manner to make the seasoned small-bore shot take note.

This rifle offers splendid remodeling possibilities. With a full-proportioned telescope-sight stock, and its speed action, it approaches very closely to being the ideal .22 rifle for hunting. It is the steadiest-holding rifle in the offhand position that I have ever used, and is a squirrel rifle de luxe.

The stock I had made for it is of crotch walnut, with fore-end of ample length, and is designed for use with scope sight. The density of the walnut is such as to bring the weight of the rifle up to the ideal 7½ pounds, complete with scope and sling. The arm balances 4 inches forward of the trigger, where the clip magazine is inserted.

It is in the metal work that this rifle differs most from the orthodox 69, however. The illustration indicates the changes in the cams that permit full compression of the mainspring upon opening the bolt, eliminating the necessity of forcing the bolt forward to closed position against spring tension. The bolt operates with a smoothness and "feel" similar to that of the Model 52.

Removal of the cocking-piece knob, to speed-up the action, eliminated the safety feature; which, however, is of no importance so far as I am concerned, as I prefer to carry this rifle with the bolt slightly turned so as to retract the firing pin, rather than struggle with a safety.

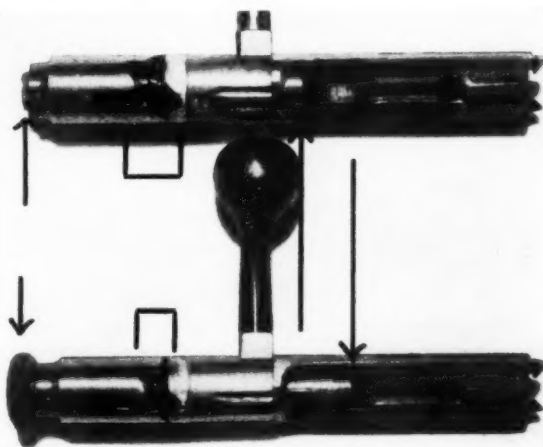
Most of the speeding-up has been attained by shortening the movement of the firing pin. I have yet to encounter a single missfire resulting from this change, even with the brass cases of high-velocity ammunition; and the ignition appears to be very uniform and certain. Changing the gear made necessary a new trigger.

The appearance of the rifle has been much improved by substituting the trigger-guard plate of a Model 52 for the rather skimpy corresponding parts of the 69; and the clip is at the present time flush with the stock

line, which necessitated making a new take-down screw.

At this juncture allow me to say a word for the maligned clip magazines for .22 rifles. In my experience they are very much safer to use, particularly in a car, than the tubular variety, for they can be unloaded with speed and certainty. I have not forgotten the time I fired a .22 long rifle shell through an electric waffle iron, after having very carefully unloaded a Model 39 Marlin tubular-magazine rifle before entering the house. Cold fingers and an oily hammer, together with a stray shell, were responsible for the mishap, which might have been more serious.

In closing I would like to give credit for all the ingenious alterations and splendid gunsmithing that this improved 69 Winchester reflects, to Mr. J. H. Bishop, of the Warsaw, Missouri gunstock firm of E. H. Bishop & Son. Mr. Bishop is a very gifted and able amateur gunsmith, as all who have handled this rifle of mine agree.



# This Handgun Game

By WALTER F. ROPER

## Make Haste—Slowly

A FEW NIGHTS AGO WHILE VISITING a nearby club I heard a member of the committee that had the job of making up the teams for the indoor matches, urging a new shooter to practice timed and rapid fire so that he could shoot on one of the teams. That particular novice had come along in remarkable style and in less than three months had reached the fine average of 92 x 100 on the standard target at twenty yards. His interest and enthusiasm were a joy to see, but he had not by any means reached the point where his shooting was grooved. His fine trigger control could easily be lost, and once gone it would be a heart-breaking job for him to get it back. He just wasn't ready to tackle fast shooting.

I imagine there are hundreds of new shooters at the same point in their progress, and I want to urge them to go slow in taking up timed and rapid fire. Don't take the chance of losing all you have gained in skill so far. Stick to slow fire until there is no question about having it down "pat." Of course it's easy to make suggestions, and I know how much extra work each additional match means for those who do the clerical work, but I believe that every program should provide a slow fire match for the chaps who haven't reached the stage where fast shooting is proper for them.

There's nothing wrong with Timed and Rapid Fire; in fact they are probably more interesting and the best type of shooting for the man who wants to be a real handgun expert, but they are for the man who is well grounded in the vital requirement of good shooting—a controlled trigger squeeze. It is too easy to develop a bit of a yank when the time element enters the proposition. I firmly believe that new shooters will become better all around shots more quickly if they start training for fast shooting by simply speeding up the increase in pressure on the trigger in slow fire shooting without allowing any thought of the time element to enter the matter. Pretty soon they will find that twenty second fire isn't difficult at all and, most important, there is no need of rushing, so there is no reason for even the slightest "yank." From that to Rapid Fire is no great step if just one thing is always remembered, namely that it is far more important to squeeze properly than it is to have the sights in absolute alignment on the six o'clock point of the bull. You may get an eight because of poor alignment, but yanking the trigger will give you fives—or misses. So, for the sake of future successes, go easy on tackling fast shooting. Build a firm foundation, one that will keep you going right as long as you shoot.

## "Group-Tighteners"

Though not particularly new, the phrase, "group-tighteners" has become about the most frequently used bit of jargon in the shooter's vocabulary and as just about everything seems to qualify for the title, let's take a look at the proposition of making smaller groups by some other means than an improvement in shooting ability. Of course while a small group does indicate the shooter's ability, it

doesn't mean high scores necessarily as the location of the group has considerable to do with that item. Leaving that little matter for some future discussion, the size of the group depends upon three things: the accuracy of the gun and the ammunition; the ability of the shooter to hold and squeeze, and upon getting the shot away without in the least changing the pointing of the gun.

The accuracy of the guns and ammunition has reached such a point that there is little left to desire, certainly nothing to worry about. The ability to hold, squeeze and sight is something the shooter must attend to himself; there isn't any substitute for that! The one thing left, the matter of getting the shot away without any change in the pointing of the gun, is decidedly something else, and here lies the real opportunity for a shooter to mechanically reduce the size of his groups.

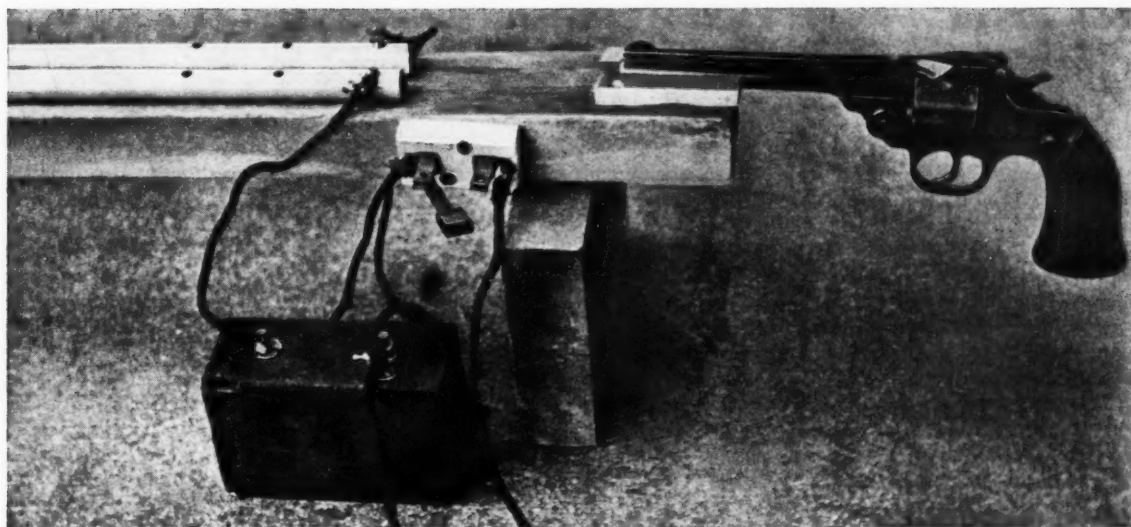
Anyone can do excellent dry snapping after a bit of practice, but in spite of all that has been said about the benefit of such training it does not assure fine shooting, for the one item that causes the most trouble in actual shooting isn't present in dry snapping. The gun does not move as it does when it recoils from the discharge of the cartridge; and remember this: at least a part of the motion resulting from the recoil takes place before the bullet leaves the muzzle. If the resistance to this motion varies in amount or in the direction in which it acts, the gun will not move the same on each shot and the point of impact will vary. Your group will show the result.

The place for a real "group-tightener" is, therefore, on the butt end of a handgun and its job is to give uniform support, keep the weight of the gun off the trigger finger because it moves when let off takes place, and make the resistance to recoil constant in amount and direction.

## Sugar and the Jitters

One day recently, Frank Wyman, the competitions man of the N.R.A., dropped in for a little visit. As usual, after a few false starts Frank and I landed on a subject that I'm sure will be of interest to many shooters who, like us, have a sinking feeling at the pit of the stomach when they go on the firing line for a match. Frank told of finding that eating something rich in sugar seemed to help him, and how the famous Jake Engbrech of the Los Angeles Police Team had told him that the same thing worked with him. Thinking this over I realized that there is a good reason for it, although, knowing that one of my medical friends may possibly read this, I hesitate to go too deeply into the chemistry of the proposition. In plain English, therefore, worry, fear, sudden shock, or just plain fatigue, can lower the amount of sugar in the blood and this can cause an "all gone" feeling, weakness, and often actual trembling.

It would seem quite possible that many shooters, under the strain of a tight match, may find that a little sweet chocolate—the "quick energy" of the old time football man, or Frank's favorite malted milk tablets, or just plain orange juice, may be of real help. Anyway, it is better than using some drug of the sedative type, as sugar is at least meeting a normal need of the system.

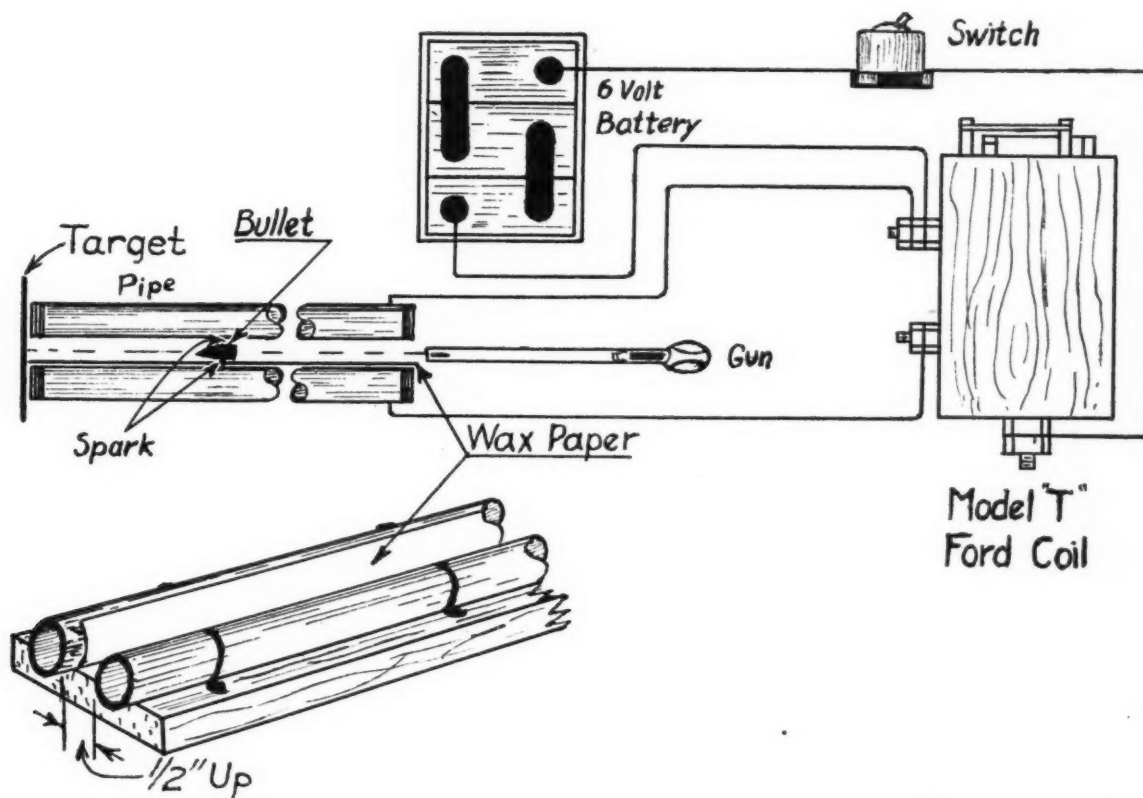


# A SIMPLE CHRONOGRAPH

By EARL SEIDLINGER

ALMOST EVERY GUNMAN WHO LOADS his own shells gets the urge to find out how fast his bullets travel. But by the time he actually gets under way he is ready to give up. Too many unnecessary complications loom in his way simply because he thinks he must use no end of gadgets and expensive equipment in order to achieve results.

Measuring the speed of a bullet is easy, and the outlay for equipment is almost negligible. To begin with, it is necessary to have a fairly good Model T Ford coil, an electric switch, two pieces of gas pipe from eight to ten feet in length and not more than 1½-inch in diameter—¾-inch being the best; also paper, wax, and your car battery. (Cont. on p. 35)





# HOW ARE YOUR NERVES?

By RAY CARVER

"I COULD DO BETTER if I hadn't eaten a big meal before coming down here."

"Yeah? Well, I could do better if I had something to eat . . ."

"And how about me? I didn't sleep an hour last night, and I've been smoking to beat hell . . ."

Maybe you've heard it. Almost any club has about as many theories as members regarding the effect eating, sleeping, drinking, and smoking has on scores. Anyway, it makes good material for the inevitable alibis.

But what effect do such things have upon scores? Do the topnotchers in the game think of such things, and go into a period of training before a big match? Do they watch their diet, avoid smoking too much, and behave as professional athletes do before an important contest?

Physical training is essential in most sports. Of course shooting isn't a strenuous sport, but it does require the highest coordination of muscles, relaxation of nerves, and a certain degree of physical fitness. Perhaps many hard-boiled shooters would consider it an insult if you should suggest that smoking too much, or too much coffee or liquor, or overeating, or lack of sleep, might affect their nerves, and therefore their scores. I have heard plenty of arguments to the effect that such things don't make a bit of difference, and I've been glad to believe them, too; mainly because I didn't like the idea of stinting myself on smoking or eating, or going on a party the night before a match. To add weight to the arguments, one could always find men who smoked heavily or took a few too many drinks, whose scores ran much higher than those of men who never smoked or drank.

Yet I had a hard time convincing that still, small voice down inside of me that my main reason for wanting to believe tobacco didn't affect my shooting was because I lacked the guts to quit using it; for I am a heavy smoker, especially when it comes to a pipe. I didn't want to believe it, but it seemed to me that after smoking unusually hard for a while, my nerves were unusually jittery. Some of the fellows at the club scoffed at the idea. "All imagination," they said. Perhaps it was, but I believed that it made a difference, so I began to cut out pipe smoking, entirely, a day or two before the regular shoot night. My score wasn't high, but it was consistent. Still, my holding wasn't as good as I thought it should be, and I began to agree with the others that it didn't make any difference. If you could shoot, you could shoot, and if you couldn't it was too bad. I had the nicotine idea so strongly in mind I never thought of anything else which might have a bearing upon the case.

Then the realization came to me that this was a very individual problem. Perhaps John Jones could smoke like a chimney or get drunker than a boiled owl, without ill effects, and maybe Sam Smith could go without sleep for a week and still shoot tens; but perhaps each fellow had his own peculiar weakness. Then, again, age might enter in. Perhaps we old pelters would have to baby our nerves. Yet none of the shooting articles ever said a thing about the physical condition of the top-ranking bullet-slingers; none of them ever suggested that Bill Brown, way down there in thirty-fifth place, might have taken the match if he hadn't gone on a bender the night before.

Being unable to find any information on the subject, I decided to try some experiments on myself. I cut out smoking entirely for a week, then began shooting a daily string of ten shots with both rifle and pistol. On the 50-foot gallery rifle target I could usually turn out a score of about 80 in the offhand position. I began to boost that a little. For a week I kept a record of the scores, and I got a high of 87 and an average of 84 for the week.

While I was about it, I wanted to find out all I could. My holding didn't suit me yet, and I began thinking about other things which might have a detrimental effect upon my nerves. Coffee seemed the most logical thing to consider next. I was never a very heavy coffee drinker, but I cut it out entirely. (Yes, I began smoking again when I cut out the coffee.) My score began to climb. Imagination or not, I was laying 'em in. I got several scores well over 90, and one of 96, which was plenty hot for me. My average for five days was 88.

Of course this regular practice might have had something to do with the better score. To check on it I began drinking coffee again—a lot of it. I drank six or eight cups a day, and quit smoking. I could tell the difference without shooting. I was as jittery as an old maid with a date. I tried to be honest in the tests—tried to hold 'em in there. But they just wouldn't group. I even began to get misses, and my average dropped to the low seventies.

That convinced me that, in my case, coffee did make a big difference. Smoking did, too, to a certain extent. I could smoke moderately, though, and do fairly well. The liquor problem wasn't an issue with me, as I seldom drink.

As I have mentioned before, this is a very individual problem. I'd still like to know whether the big shots are ever bothered with such trivial things. Good shooting is dependent mainly upon practice and good equipment, but there must be a human angle; and if careful training in the matter of diet, habits, and the like, will help scores, I'd be willing to bet that those best shots watch themselves pretty carefully. I wonder, too, if some of the nearly great might not "go over the top" if they would train with half the seriousness that most of our professional athletes do.

There are a lot of fellows who shoot and shoot, and never seem to improve their score very much, or care much about winning. Consistently being a "tail-ender," however, isn't conducive to interest in any game. Whether or not tempering your habits to give your nerves a better chance, will help you as an individual, depends largely upon your mental attitude. I am convinced that it helps me, therefore it does. Whether actually working a physical improvement or not, it acts as a prop to my confidence. Instead of worrying about a wide one or a miss, I feel confident that I can hold 'em in closer. It may be entirely mental, but it helps my score and I get more fun out of the game.

Perhaps you have never stood up there on the firing line and had your pet gun feel as if the pull had been increased eleven pounds and the sights set in jello; perhaps you've never felt certain that a wide one or a miss was going to come on every other shot. But that's the mental attitude to make you stay a tail-ender, and if you can find something to boost your confidence, you will improve your shooting and have a lot more fun.

# SCOPE-SIGHT RETICULES

By DON MARTIN

THERE IS A DEEP-ROOTED suspicion in my mind concerning the fellow who too often finds himself right and the world wrong. Since my views are at odds with those of most of the arms commentators, shooting editors, and hunting-scope manufacturers, I present them with diffidence. I can't help wondering what I have overlooked.

Many hunting moons have waxed and waned since I purchased my first hunting telescope sight. It cost me about sixty dollars, mounted, and that is quite a sum for a hill billy to have at one time, let alone drop it all in one place for a gadget.

Previously to making up my mind, I had read nearly everything published in this country concerning scope sights. I reinforced the information thus obtained by putting the proposition up to three gun editors, each of whom was kind enough to reply at length. I wrote the manufacturer of the sight I proposed to buy, and quizzed all my friends who had any experience with such things.

The replies I had from my letters were unanimous in agreeing with what I had been reading and what my friends thought. The dope was: get a flat-top post reticule in your hunting scope. So I did.

A few months later I bought a much less expensive telescope for a hunting .22. There was no choice in this scope: I had to take cross-hairs. During the next year I treated myself to a target scope for a target rifle. This was also put up with cross-hairs.

The locality in which I was hunting during all this time was visited with approximately one hundred and fifty inches of rain a year, and this condition hampered the use of glass sights to such an extent that I finally returned to a bridge peep, and left the sixty-dollar hunting scope at home. I did make a few kills with it at close range, and had no complaints as to the way it worked out.

Then I moved down on the west slope of the Beaverhead Mountains in eastern Idaho, and began hunting under conditions as nearly ideal for the telescope sight, I imagine, as exist anywhere in the world. There is little rainfall; the air is dry and clear, and the elevation is from four thousand feet, up. Long shots are not infrequent.

Things began to happen to me and to my post reticule. The first year I hunted in Idaho I was, on one occasion, circling a band of does and fawns in about five inches of fresh snow, hunting with extreme caution in the hope of being able to look them over before they saw me, when I picked up two large bucks at rather long range. With plenty of time to size up the lay, I could see no possible chance to get a closer shot. I sprawled out in the snow beside a scraggly fir, tied up in the sling, and prepared to open fire. After all, what is a hunting scope on a .30-'06 for if not long range?

While I was getting placed, the larger of the two bucks bedded under a bush. I knew I had a long shot. The gun was sighted-in for two hundred yards. I held the top of the picket on the line of the bedded buck's back above his shoulders, and squeezed the trigger. The gun cracked, the buck jumped up unharmed, and both animals cat-hopped around in circles, unwilling to run until they knew where the trouble was coming from. I was certain I had under-shot, so I tried to hold over. The post reticule nearly hid

the whole deer when standing endways, and a good third when sideways. As I had to hold over at least twelve inches, this was a terrible handicap, especially as the buck was in constant motion. I fired four more shots, and the last one landed fair and square and killed him; but I will always think it was more luck than science.

The ground was quite open, and I paced the shot and estimated the distance at about three hundred and thirty yards. It was—and still is—my longest successful shot at a deer.

The next season I was hunting during a dry spell. I had just topped a low ridge over a small nook filled with scattering timber, clumps of willow, mountain ash, and stunted aspens, when a burst of fire echoed down from the upper end of the little valley. An instant later six deer started around the point opposite me. I have no idea what the range was, as the deep gulch between made anything but a guess impossible; but it was long. I held high, and fired four shots. The post, as it had the year before, hid everything, and I had no way of correcting my hold. With the fourth shot a deer piled up. Once more luck, and not skill, deserves the credit.

I scrambled across the gulch and met the other shooter, who had killed a deer farther up; then I walked around to where my animal was lying. My chagrin and disgust were complete when I found that I had badly wounded a second animal with one of the first shots. If everything had not been blotted out by that broad-based, sloping, flat-topped picket, I would certainly have been able to spot that shot when I fired it. As it was, I didn't know anything about it until I found the blood trail.

Another experience with the picket exasperated me "no bally end," as our English friends have it. I was just ready to go to town, when I saw two coyotes on the hill east of the ranch. I ran into the house, picked up my rifle, hurriedly took a box of ammunition, and ran out far enough into the orchard to get a clear prone shot. When I loaded the rifle I was provoked to note that I had jacketed bullets, but there was nothing to do now but shoot, as the coyotes were leaving straight up the hill.

The ball opened at around two hundred yards, and ended when the coyotes went over the hill at something like six hundred yards. I fired twelve shots. The following winter a Biological Survey poisoner got two coyotes on that ridge that had recently healed bullet wounds in them. It may or may not have been the same two. What impressed me the most, and very unfavorably, was that with the little wolves running away from me up the hill, the post reticule covered them, and as I had to hold over I had to shoot blind, moving in from the side and shooting as soon as the picket covered them. No one could hope to do good shooting under such a handicap.

A year later I fell for another hunting rifle, and had to send my scope back to the maker to have a new side-plate fitted. At the same time I had him change the reticule from the sloping flat-topped picket to medium cross-hairs. I am well pleased with the change.

Two years ago I found my deer late in the evening. A buck, a doe, and a yearling were looking over a ridge

at me at about seventy yards. I leveled the rifle, and found it to be so dark that wherever the cross-hairs covered anything they were completely blotted out. I split the buck with the perpendicular line from the top down, and gauged the proper place on his chest with the right horizontal line, these being plain against the dimming sky. The orange flame of the muzzle blast blinded me so far as spotting the shot was concerned, which will indicate how nearly dark it was.

Three deer hopped away. Three were all I had seen before I shot. I damned the luck fervently, alibied myself for missing by blaming the darkness, and was just about ready to start down the hill toward home when a small voice inside me whispered "Better take a look." I did, and found the buck had been killed dead in his tracks, and was lying behind a sage brush. I had hit him within an inch of where I intended to. There was another deer in the bunch that I had not seen. I do not think this shot could have been made with the post reticule.

Last season, when I managed to break away for a day, the hunting conditions were ideal. There had been a light snow a few days before, but the ground was partly bare. The air was warm and damp, and by the time I got squared away to hunt toward the ranch, a light breeze was drifting gently up the valley toward me. I crossed a large buck's tracks about three o'clock in the afternoon, and started down them, criss-crossing them with wide sweeps through the rather open timber, and using great care, as the tracks were very fresh.

In about half an hour I spied the buck. He was some sixty yards below me, feeding at the roots of a gnarled old fir, with his head out of sight. One step would spoil the shot, and one jump would put him behind a cliff. I threw down the rifle, placed the horizontal cross-hair, then moved the vertical hair over to within about two inches of the tree-trunk, and fired. The buck never knew what hit him. This shot could have been made with the picket, but it was easier to make it with the cross-hairs, and more exactly.

The modern hunting telescope sight is not adapted to making quick changes in the field for range and windage; and it would not be much of a help if it were not for the fine ballistics of modern hunting rifles. When it is necessary to allow for windage or elevation, this must be done by holding off or over; and with cross-hairs it can be done with great precision. In the case of windage, the hunter can hold his horizontal sight with the horizontal cross-hair, and see exactly how much windage he is allowing with the perpendicular line. When it is necessary to hold over for elevation, he can bisect his target with the vertical hair, and lift the horizontal hair for a very exact over-hold, with nothing to obscure or hide the quarry. He can combine both offsets for one shot, if necessary. It is complicated but not impossible. The hunter will find such shots very much more difficult to make with the picket.

A not-infrequent shot is at an animal running up-hill, and this is no harder to make with the cross-hairs than with any other type of reticule. It is very difficult to make with the picket, since such a shot requires some lead, which puts the target under the picket. A side running shot is easier to make with the cross-hairs, since the animal can often be put on the horizontal line, and let run into the fatal intersection.

Cross-hairs have many other advantages. For example, the whole field of the scope is available to the hunter, no

part being hidden under the black mask of the picket. When the hunter misjudges his range, the picket will invariably hide the true facts of a low shot, and leave him guessing, while with the cross-hairs he stands an excellent chance of getting enough information from the first miss to make the second shot count.

The horizontal cross-hair is a great help to shooters who tend to cant their rifles. If the arm is not held true, the cross-hair will tell the story.

Some advise the post for light vermin rifles, but I can hardly conceive of a worse sight for a .22 than a flat-topped post reticule. The shots are at varying ranges, and the .22 is notoriously sensitive to wind, and has a high trajectory. With a cross-hair reticule set to shoot point-blank and from sixty to seventy yards, the careful shooter can get a large proportion of hits, both close and up to one hundred yards, by holding a bit low for the very close ones and a trifle high for the extra-long ones, always having the vertical hair to keep lined up with.

I have killed a few crows and magpies with my .22 with a six-inch hold-over. I admit that such shots come in the accident class, but if the target were covered by a post reticule they would come in the miracle class.

Fine cross-hairs are the only possible consideration for a powerful pest rifle such as the .257 Roberts or the .220 Swift. A post that subtends three inches at one hundred yards is twice as wide as the average chuck at three hundred yards.

I have experienced considerable eye-strain in trying to quarter a black bullseye with cross-hairs while shooting indoors, and I should like sometime to shoot a long enough string with a flat-topped post to see if it did not improve my scores. I can think of no other place where the post would be better than cross-hairs.

There has never occurred in my life, so far as I can recall, a hunting situation in which I think cross-hairs would not have been as good as, or better than the flat-topped post. I do not believe I am in favor of the recent innovation of a heavy dot at the intersection of the cross-hairs, although I am sure it would be better than the post, since it would at least have a clear field under it.

From the old country comes many a weird and nutty idea regarding reticules, but none of these has ever impressed me favorably. If you *must* have a post, a cross-hair under the tip will help in the matter of canting. Otherwise it is useless.

Several of my friends who started out as I did with picket reticules, have switched to cross-hairs. I do not know of any who are not glad they made the change. There is no talk of returning to the flat-topped post.

It seems to me that in any hunting country where the post could by any possibility be better than the cross-hairs, a coarse peep or a wide-bottom V rear sight would be even better for the hunter with good vision; and I am not alone in this opinion. Several of my eastern correspondents who hunt in heavy timber and brush, are removing their hunting scopes.

Proponents of the post-style picket have pointed out that the top of the picket draws the hunter's eye and makes for fast shooting. But perhaps they have overlooked something even more favorable in the cross-hair type. Cross-hairs are always referred to as a vertical and a horizontal line, but when the shooter looks into his scope that is not the way they impress his eye. What he sees is four short lines converging toward the center from each quarter of the picture. They naturally tend to draw his attention and concentrate his vision on the place where they meet. Cross-hairs are as fast as any other type of reticule.



# SHORT-CUTS TO BETTER PICTURES

By MAURICE KELLERMAN

*{Concluded from January Issue}*

WHEN I WAS REQUESTED to make some pictures of game trophies, I found myself confronted with the problem of finding trophies to illustrate with.

Then I hit upon the brilliant idea of calling on James L. Clark, who is Director of Preparation at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Mr. Clark also operates one of the finest taxidermy studios in the country, where many record heads are mounted.

I was kindly granted permission to go up to his studio and photograph a selection of American game trophies.

Looking around at the imposing array of moose, elk, caribou, sheep, antelope and deer, I realized that I knew very little about how this splendid collection should be photographed. I knew vaguely that a moose's head is judged by the spread of the antlers, that a deer is valued by the number of points on its horns, that sheep are appraised by the thickness of horn and length of curve. The pronghorn antelope, so cherished by Elmer Keith and other Western sportsmen, is scanned through the binoculars on the plains and selected because of a good spread, curve of tips and length of horns—and so on. . . . But how was I to bring out all these best points in pictures, and yet show the heads and necks to the most pictorial advantage? Either you make a fine picture of a wonderful pair of horns as seen from front center between the animal's eyes, and, right away the head and neck are lost in a shapeless mass of hair, or, on the other hand, if you show the graceful profile of head and outline of neck, the horns lose their symmetry—and, maybe, that won't please the trophy hunter.

One thing I decided on as I looked up at those heads: most of them should be photographed from a viewpoint about level with the animal's lower jaw, because this angle lends nobility to the trophy, and also the heads generally hang fairly high in trophy rooms and we become accustomed to looking up at them. It is also an established principle with sculptors that we should not look *down* on a piece of sculpture, as this viewpoint belittles the artist's piece; hence the pedestal on which all sculpture is mounted.

So, faced with this uncertainty as to just how to photograph these trophies, I decided that I should make the pictures to suit myself, then ask Mr. Clark, as one of our foremost authorities on game heads, to criticize the pictures. This I did, and I submit his comments herewith.

Pictures 1 and 2: A Bull Moose.

Number one looks up at the head, and was judged a very good picture. The head and neck have good line and shape. The bell is clearly outlined against the light background of the natural knotty pine wall. The spread of antlers is well shown, and the whole head looks powerful and majestic—in fact, a monarch of the north woods.

In number two, which is made almost looking down on the head, we get a better look at the antlers but we have sacrificed everything else. The head and neck seem to be all-one with the shoulders; all dignity is gone.

Clark pointed out that, in mounting heads, he usually tries to keep the lower jaw of the animal about horizontal; firstly because the head is at this angle when it is looking at the hunter in the field, and secondly, because this again gives character to the mounted head.

In photographing the Deer shown in Number three, I purposely committed several technical crimes. The lighting is too low, causing a mess of horn shadows on the wall, so that it is impossible to judge the spread. The beam also runs across the tips of the prongs. The chin hangs too low: a block of wood should have been placed under the lower neck against the wall, this would have tilted the head up better.

Pictures 4 and 5: A Pronghorn Antelope, and a nice head. Remembering that this game is judged by a good spread, nice curve of tips and length of horns, I set the camera head-on. The picture did not please me, so I made another from the side, which shows the wonderfully graceful neck and head. From this angle one senses the fleetness that the antelope is noted for. True, we only see the curve of one horn, but we presume the other is a mate. My judge agreed with my reasoning, and OK'ed the side view as the nicer picture. But if you, the owner of this head, must see the perfect spread of both horns, then by all means do as I did, and show both viewpoints.

Incidentally, in photographing necks, and in order to get detail and texture of fur and hair, it may be necessary to throw a little spotlight or reflected light from the floor up onto the neck.

Pictures 6 and 7: The White Sheep.

At first Mr. Clark preferred the absolutely front view for the symmetry of the horns, but I pointed out that, as in the case of the antelope, this head-on shot completely destroyed the shape of the face and neck. I defy anyone to tell me how long or short these features are in proportion to the horns, from picture evidence.

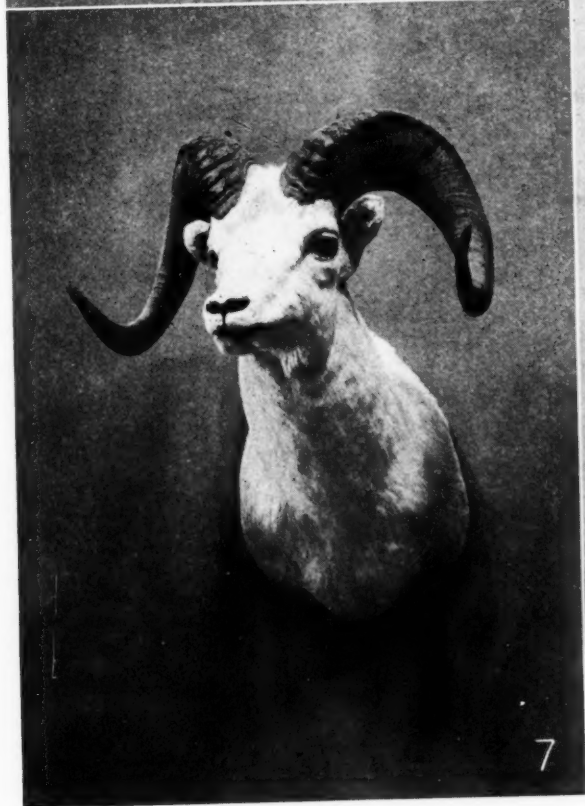
On the other hand, by moving the camera just a little to the right, we still keep both horns clearly outlined against the background, and we gain shape and proportion for the length of head and neck, a good compromise. My argument was approved.

Picture 8: A Bighorn Sheep. About the same viewpoint as the second shot of the white sheep. Picture considered O. K.

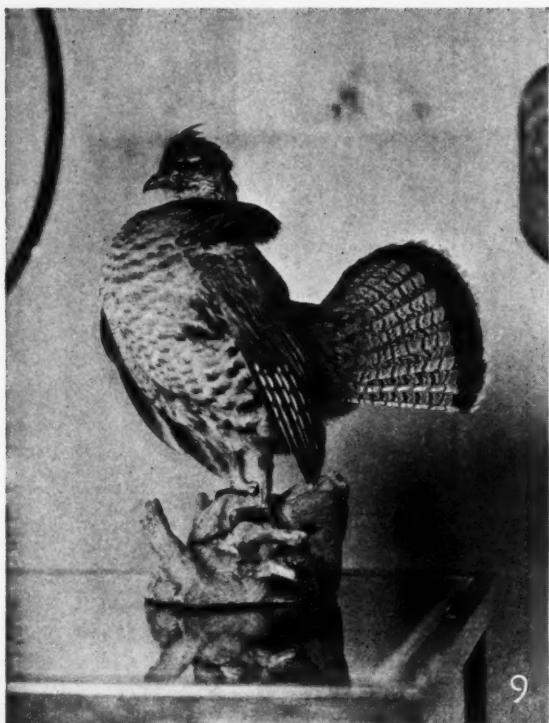
The dark gray color is hard to photograph, so I decided to use a background lighter than the hair. To get a little relief to the neck, I added a number 1 photoflood bulb from below—the main light source being overhead and in front only just enough to keep horn shadows off the wall.

Picture 9: A Grouse. In order to portray the pride of the bird, which the taxidermist has so well retained, I placed the camera low enough to look up *just a little*. The inclusion of the glass top table and some of each wall object on the sides rather tends to place the bird in the parlor, which is where such trophies are usually found.









both seem to show tense alertness, and the legs are ready for a sprint through the brush. Even the eye and twist of the head are alive to approaching dog and gunner. A very fine piece of mounting, and I found it quite difficult to do it justice in a picture.

Now a word or two about the photographic technique:

In the course of discussion, Mr. Clark mentioned that most of the pictures sent to him by owners of trophies had the same general faults: Camera too close, causing exaggerated and false perspective (nose being nearer camera becomes too large, neck and shoulders further away look too small).

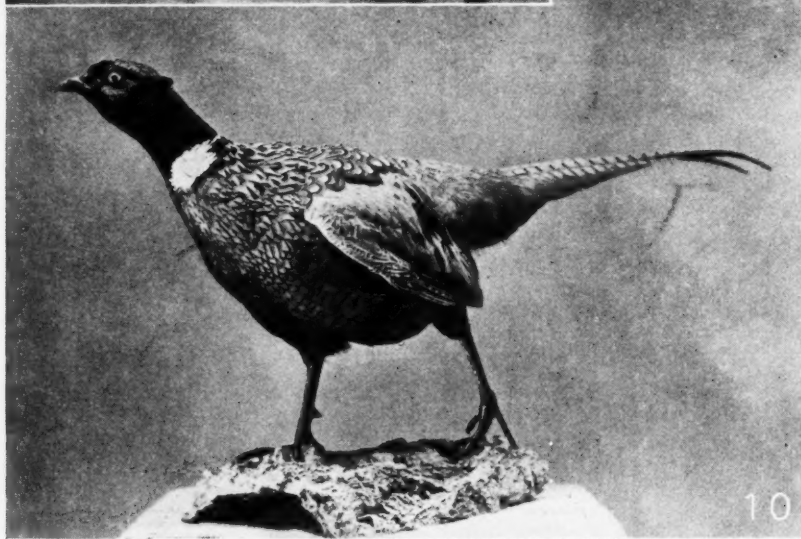
2—Camera too close also causes lack of depth of focus, so that either horns or nose are out of focus.

3—Bad shadows of horns on wall caused by lighting too low.

We both agree that the top north skylight, on that side of the house, is the best place to photograph a head. Unhook your trophy and go hang it on a *plain* outside wall or piece of composition board painted a *light* color, if the head and horns are dark, or paint the board *dark* if the trophy is very light like the Dall sheep.

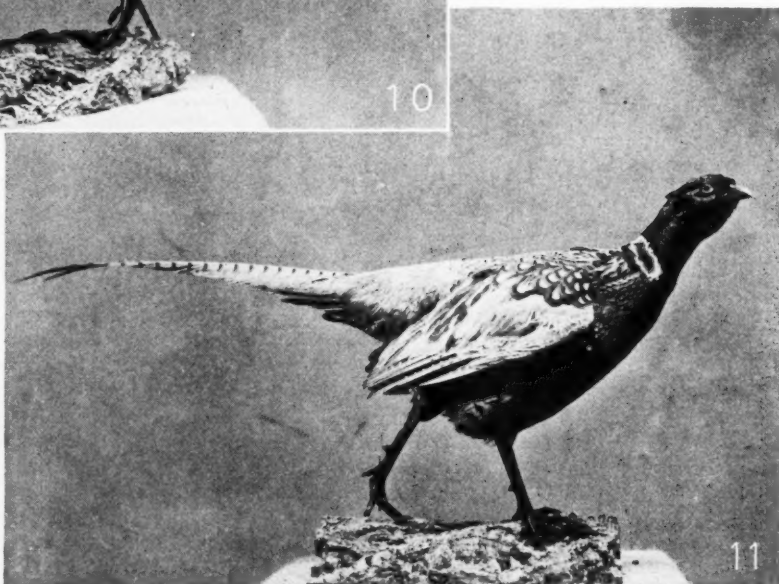
Don't set the camera any nearer than the focussing scale will allow. My camera was 12 feet away from the moose's nose in picture 1. Five feet should be minimum. Measure from lens to eye of trophy when you have set up the camera, then stop the diaphragm down to at least F. 11, and give about half a second exposure in north shady side of house. Avoid sunlight with its harsh shadows for this work.

Finally, I wish to thank James Clark for his valuable and constructive comments, which I am sure will help us all in finding short-cuts to better pictures of our trophies.



Pictures 10 and 11: The well-known Ringneck Pheasant. In the picture of the bird heading left, we have good lighting of all the plumage. But I don't like the shot, as the bird's body looks "dumpy" and the tail is slightly shortened by the perspective.

In Number 11, with the bird facing right, we have a totally different impression. There is a feeling of swift streamline. The smooth underbody curve from the beak down to the leg is clean and gracefully outlined against a lighter background. The wing and tail



# LAYING ANOTHER ALIBI

By F. C. NESS

"MY GLASSES SLIPPED, and I aimed that shot through the corner of the lens. Threw me clear out of the ten-ring; just when I had that match cinched, darn it!" So alibied the runner-up.

Did you ever see a shooter hold his glasses at arm's length, and slowly rotate them as he watched the view through them being displaced? While doing so, the chances are that he was building up a worry in his mind, and filing away a prospective alibi. The prism-effect or sight-displacement theory is commonly accepted, and quite prevalent among the target-shooting gentry. It is a potent source of alibis, especially among the informed who know that a prism bends the light rays towards its base. Unfortunately, facts support their theory up to a certain point, tending to make the erroneous conclusion a convincing one.

Consider a prism lens as a solid triangle, or wedge, of glass. The light rays which pass through it are bent towards its base. A positive or converging lens is thick in the center, being formed of many segments made up of prisms or glass wedges with their bases joined in the middle to form a common center. The light rays, then, bent towards the bases of these combined prisms, converge upon the optical axis of the positive lens. A negative or diverging lens is thin in the center, because its individual prism segments also have their common joining point in the middle of the lens, but at the apex of each prism, their bases now forming the rim of the lens. In this case the light rays are bent away from the optical axis, or towards the thicker rim of the lens. In a plano or straight lens, devoid of prescription grinding or prisms, a similar but much modified prism effect can be obtained by looking through the glass obliquely, and that principally is responsible for the concern of our worried and alibi-minded shooter.

The amount or degree of bend is directly dependent upon the diopter power of the prism. One prism diopter will bend the light rays, towards the prism base, far enough to cause a displacement of one centimeter at the distance of one meter. A (No. 2) prism of 2 prism diopters will displace the light rays 2 centimeters at the distance of a meter, or 4 centimeters at a distance of two meters, etc. A No. 10 prism (of 10 prism diopters) will displace the light ten centimeters at one meter, or ten full meters (1000 cm.) at 100 meters distance; that is, about ten yards at 100 yards.

Now all this inclines to, and serves to support, the theory of sighting-error from prism displacement, because our shooter doesn't carry his theorizing to its practical conclusion. Instead, he jumps to the seemingly logical conclusion that such proven light-line displacement must also mean sight-line displacement. As a matter of fact, this prism displacement does not occur until after the sight line has been established and fixed, so that it is really unaffected and unchangeable.

If we trace the light ray from its source to our eye, we can understand why this is so. The source, of course, is the target from which our light line (or rays) come back to or through the front sight (aperture) and the rear sight (aperture), then through our glasses, where the straight line of light is refracted or bent before it reaches the eye, i.e., before we "see" it. However, the important thing

is that the sight line is always straight, and direct from target to, and through, the sights, and that fact cannot be changed even were we to employ a right-angle prism and face that straight sight line at a 90° angle in aiming.

Because it is extremely hard to give up a long-nourished idea, or tear out a deeply-rooted belief, we all appreciate some practical demonstration as proof. To convince skeptics, therefore, we conducted a test under greatly exaggerated conditions which involved the introduction of prisms between eye and sight line. There was no point in using shooting glasses, because any prism effect from such a source would be so infinitesimally small as to be indiscernible. Instead, we used prisms of exaggerated diopter powers, up to No. 20, and got vision distortion but no sight-line displacement or sighting-error blamable upon prism displacement.

We are grateful to Willard Smith who conducts the Goggle Sales Division of Bausch & Lomb for his encouragement and cooperation. Without it, and his initiative in the matter, the test might not have been undertaken at all. Likewise we are grateful to the local B. & L. branch, McIntire, Magee and Brown Co., who loaned us the set of prisms and trial frames used in the test. Because the prisms had to be held with the fingers in different positions before the sighting eye, it was a tough assignment for the shooter, imposing upon him much nervous strain and considerable eye strain, as well as trying his patience. I think, therefore, that anyone interested in the results owes some gratitude to Alvin Barr, who faithfully stuck to the shooting job until conclusive results had been obtained.

In the first phase of the test, the M2 Springfield with Eric Johnson barrel, Bishop target stock, Wittek-Vaver front sight and Goss extension receiver sight, was used, with Western Xpert and Super Match ammunition, at 100 yards, from bench rest.

Using Western Expert first, 10 shots were fired without prism interference. Then 10 more were fired with the No. 3 prism (3 prism diopters, or a light-line displacement of about 3 yards at 100 yards) held before the sighting eye with the base of the prism on top, or at 12 o'clock. The third 10-shot group was fired using the same No. 3 prism, but with its base at the bottom, or 6 o'clock. The first group measured 1.95 inches. The center of impact was 0.60-inch left of center, and on center for elevation. The second group was 2.04 inches, with 8 in 0.18-inch. The impact center was 0.50-inch above center, and on center laterally. The third group was 1.70 inches (8 in 1.25 inches). The center of impact was identical with that of the first group.

Using Super Match, 10 shots were first fired without prisms. Then the No. 8 prism was held before the eye for sighting and shooting subsequent groups, the relative base position of the prism being changed for each group. That is, it was held at 6 o'clock and 12 o'clock, respectively, for two 10-shot groups, and at 12, 6, and 3 o'clock for two 5-shot groups and one 3-shot group, in order, on the same target. The first group, without prism, measured 1.54 inches. The zero was 0.40-inch left of center. The next group was 2.28 inches, with 9 in 1.60 inches. The zero was the same, but 0.30-inch farther left. The third 10-

# MORGAN'S 200 x 200—14 Xs *with* **WINCHESTER EZXS**

TRADE MARK

*Takes* **CONNECTICUT 200-Yd. MATCH**

**Kershaw Is Runner-up, With 200 x 200—9 Xs  
 Lappert, First in Class C, Scores 200 x 200—14 Xs**



E. A. Lappert  
 Meriden, Conn.

**T**HREE perfect 20-shot scores at 200 yards indoors—any sights—with Winchester Lesmok EZXS and Winchester Model 52 Target Rifles, by three different marksmen, was the remarkable record made in the 1939-40 opening indoor small-bore rifle tournament of the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association. These were the only 200-yard possibles made. The meet was held December 10, on the Winchester ranges in New Haven, with 107 entries.

In this 200-yard event—which was Match No. 3—the winners in Class A were:

- |                   |                 |          |      |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|------|
| 1. Edw. P. Morgan | 200 x 200—14 Xs | Model 52 | EZXS |
| 2. Ernest Kershaw | 200 x 200—9 Xs  | Model 52 | EZXS |
| 3. Jack Lacy      | 199 x 200—11 Xs | Model 52 | EZXS |

Leading Class C with the third highest score shot in the match was E. A. Lappert—200 x 200—8 Xs.

Morgan's target is reproduced herewith in actual size. A 200-yard group of 20 shots that would be a credit—to any shooter and any equipment—even if made at half that range.

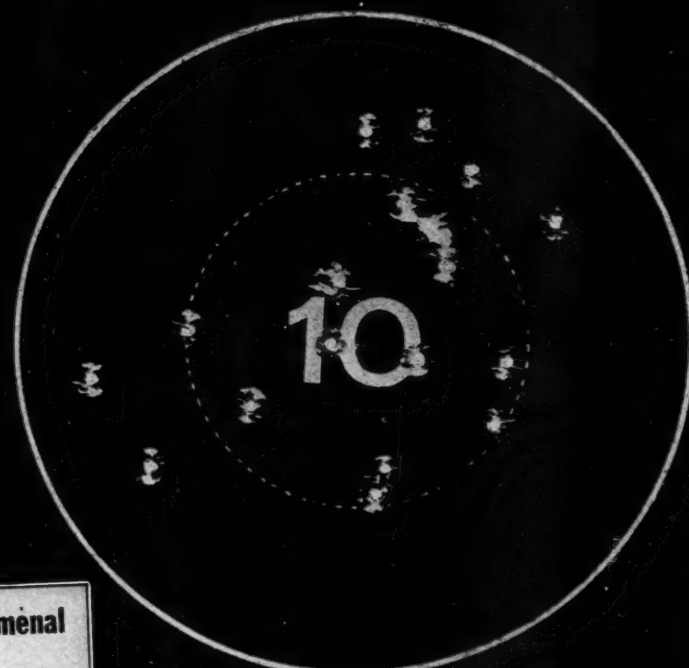
Mr. Morgan is connected with a prominent New England transportation company.

Three more examples of outstanding success in which superb marksmanship has conspicuously proved the super-fine possibilities for putting them all in the 10 ring, even at extreme range, with Winchester EZXS and Model 52.

WINCHESTER REPEATING  
 Division of Winchester  
 NEW HAVEN, CONN.



with  
XS  
MATCH  
-9s  
00-Xs



# Morgan's Phenomenal Target

Shown Above In Actual Size

20 Shots, 200 Yards—Prone—Telescope Sight—Made with Winchester Model 52 Heavy Barrel Target Rifle and Winchester Precision EZXS H539.

Mean Vertical . . . . .	1.05"
Mean Horizontal . . . . .	1.02"
Mean Radius . . . . .	.83"
Extreme Spread . . . . .	2.85"
Extreme Vertical . . . . .	2.20"
Extreme Horizontal . . . . .	2.65"

All measurements center to center.

FLASH—Word has just come from Washington announcing the ten leading scorers in the National Small-bore ranking for 1939. It is highly significant that 6 of these 10 leaders used Winchester Lesmok EZXS in compiling these winning averages.

Why not order some of these cartridges today from your local dealer?



Ernest Kershaw  
Rocky Hill, Conn.

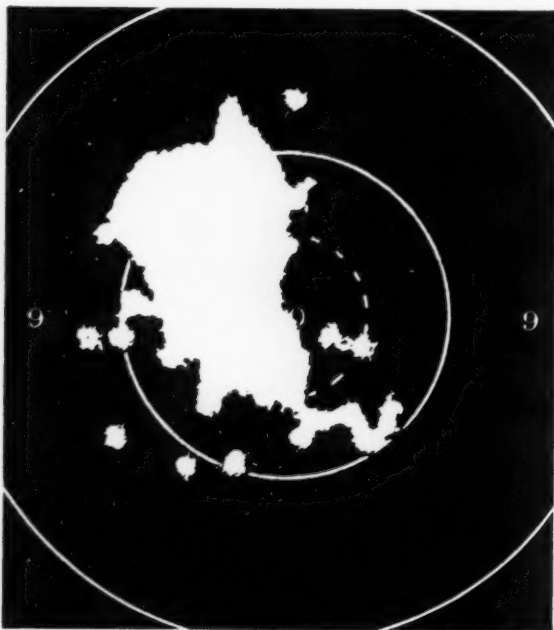
Edward P. Morgan  
West Haven, Conn.

ING ARMS COMPANY  
Cartridge Company  
U. S. A.

shot group was 1.70 inches (9 in 1.35 inches). The impact center was 0.10-inch still farther left, and 0.40-inch lower. The remaining 13 shots measured 2.50 inches as a group, with 11 in 1.75 inches. The impact center was identical with that of the first group.

So far no change in zero and no sight-line displacement by the powerful prisms had been noticed. However, fifty shots were fired on the standard small-bore target at 100-yards with the Remington Targetmaster cartridge. As before, the first 10 shots were fired without prism. Then 20 shots were fired with a No. 2 prism before the sighting eye. This was revolved 90° for each 5 shots, so that the relative position of the prism base was at 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, 12 o'clock, and at 3 o'clock, respectively, for the four 5-shot strings. For the final 20 shots this procedure was repeated, but with the No. 4 prism this time.

This target is shown in the accompanying cut. You will note that the zero was imperfect from the beginning, so that the center of impact is high and left of center. Still, the fifty shots score directly 495 X 500. The entire group measures 2.30 inches, with only one shot outside of 2.03 inches, center to center, or a "possible" size. The extreme horizontals measured 1.82 inches, and the verticals, 2.22 inches. There was no apparent deviation in center of impact when the prisms were placed in the sighting line, in various relative base-positions.



A month later the demonstration was repeated, this time with a telescope sight. The M-52 Winchester with Hubalek barrel, Stoeger Olympic stock, and Lyman 8X Jr. Target-spot was used, with Remington ammunition. This time there was a variable wind over our 100-yard range. Using Targetmaster, 10 shots were fired without prism; then the No. 2 and No. 4 prisms were employed, exactly as before in completing the 50-shot group. The score was 494 X 500, with a total size of 2.80 inches (47 in 2.05 inches). The extreme horizontal was 2.07 inches, and the vertical, 2.68 inches. As before, no sighting displacement was caused by the introduction of the prisms with their bases in the different relative positions.

Next a 25-shot group was made in much the same way, except that the prism factor was greatly increased by using an extreme prism of 20 diopters. This No. 20 prism was revolved for each string of 5 shots, as had been done with others, in order to bend the light rays in different directions. The displacement of the light line with this powerful prism was about 20 yards over our shooting distance of 100 yards. Even so, 25 shots fired with and without the prism, and with the prism base at top and bottom and at both sides, gave a group measuring 2.78 inches, with 22 in 1.98 inches. The direct score was 245 X 250. The extreme horizontal was 2.78 inches, and the vertical, 1.70 inches. This shooting was also with Targetmaster ammunition.

To wind up the test, two scores were fired with the Hi-Skor load. The first 10 shots, without prism, scored 99 x 100, and the group measured 1.98 inches. The second string, with the No. 5 prism, measured the same but scored a "possible." The center of impact was practically the same, only 0.17-inch lower than that of the first string.

These results of our test and demonstration, with both scope and metal sights, should prove conclusively, even to the most skeptical, that there is absolutely no error of aim chargeable to the prism effect introduced into the sighting line by an oblique view through shooting glasses.

The reason for this truth has already been given in our introduction. Perhaps a review of our laboratory test might make it appear more logical. The B. & L. trial frame which we used was a special adjustable spectacle frame with nose bow and temples. The disc-mounted prisms were used in lieu of spectacle lenses. These were numbered to correspond with their respective prism-diopter powers. The base of the prism was marked on each disc. The frame had a micrometer-control arrangement for convenient rotation of the discs, and thus the prism base could be easily and definitely moved to either side, or top or bottom, at will. The rifle was so clamped in a vise that the aperture sights or scope cross-hairs were centered on a small bull on the opposite wall. The prism was then put in place, and turned. The whole field of view—barrel, sight, target, and bull, revolved with the base of the prism as the prism disc was rotated. However, there was no change whatsoever in the co-alignment of the sight and the bull.

When the No. 2 prism, of 2 prism diopters, was used, its prism effect was just noticeable, the field of view rotating but slightly. At the other extreme, when the No. 20 prism was employed, the field movement was so great that it was annoying, and the head had to be moved to permit sighting, so that the eye could follow the radical bend of the light line as the latter followed the turning prism disc.

This No. 20 prism made sighting difficult for another reason. The appearance of the front sight was distorted to an oval shape, although the center of the sight (aperture) and the center of the field of view (target bull), at the axis of the movement, remained clear. Both the front sight and the scope field were elongated towards the base of the prism. The displacement was so great with the No. 20 prism that the rifle looked curved, like the segment of a great circle, and everything in the field of view—ceiling, walls, furnishings, and floors, tipped, dipped, tilted, and swayed drunkenly. Even this exaggerated prism effect, as we have already noted, had no effect upon the sight alignment with the target in the laboratory test, or upon the zero or impact center of the bullets in the shooting demonstration. I hope we have laid that alibi, and trust that it will stay laid.

## A SIMPLE CHRONOGRAPH

(Continued from page 23)

In operation, you shoot the projectile between the two lengths of pipe, as shown in the illustration. The spark from the Ford coil jumps from one pipe to the projectile, and from the projectile through the wax paper to the other pipe, to complete its circuit. Then, knowing the number of sparks the coil emits per second, you can take that number and multiply it by the distance in feet between the holes punctured in the wax paper by the spark, and get the exact number of feet per second the projectile was traveling.

In assembling the apparatus, you first mount the two pipes parallel to each other on a heavy board or 2 x 4, making sure that they are fastened securely and in perfect alignment. To do this it is best to drill holes every foot or so, and screw them down. The distance apart you set the pipes depends entirely upon the size of projectile you are going to test. A Ford coil will throw a spark approximately a half-inch long, so to be on the safe side, allow  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch on each side of the projectile between the pipes. In this way you will be sure the spark will be there when you want it. This doesn't give much room for inaccurate shooting, but if you are any kind of shot you should have no trouble for such a short distance.

This test can be made outside or in your basement—but if you intend doing it in crowded quarters, be sure your backstop is strong enough to do the work. The stop can be made in the form of a target to aid shooting; otherwise it is only a safety feature.

Assuming that you have the pipes securely fastened, and everything lined up, you now take a piece of wax paper and glue it tightly (if you don't the vacuum created by the projectile may tear it loose) to one of the pipes, so that the sparks will have to jump through it in order to complete the circuit. If you haven't wax paper at your disposal, take any white paper and paint one side of it with molten wax, using an ordinary paint brush. (To remove the wax from the brush, hold the latter in hot water. The water will melt the wax and let it float to the surface.)

When mounting your gun to shoot between the pipes, it is necessary to keep the muzzle several inches, or even feet, from the beginning of the pipes, the reason being that the burning powder escaping from the barrel will spoil the test by burning holes in the wax paper the same as the spark will do. The distance the two must be separated will depend upon your gun and the type of powder you use. One or two shots will indicate the proper distance.

You should now be ready to try the apparatus. The only essential thing left to do is to determine the number of sparks per second the Ford coil emits. The mere mention of it sounds difficult, but in reality it is the simplest part of the business—if you have an ear for music. Take the coil in near your piano, or your neighbor's piano, and start it buzzing. Then strike middle C on the piano, and tune the coil's buzzer, by means of the adjusting nut, until it sounds middle C. Middle C has 256 vibrations per second, which means that the coil will now give 256 sparks per second, because it throws a spark every time it vibrates.

You now connect the coil to your apparatus in the manner shown in the wiring diagram. Then turn on the switch and fire the shot. After firing, turn off the switch and measure the distance between the holes punctured in the paper—and start figuring.

For example: suppose the spark punctured a hole every

four feet. You then multiply  $4 \times 256$ , and get 1,024, which means that your projectile was traveling at the rate of 1,024 feet per second. Or suppose the distance between holes happened to be, say, 4 feet 8 inches, and you had the coil sounding the C three octaves above middle C on the piano, or vibrating at the rate of 1,024 times per second. Four feet eight inches is  $4\frac{2}{3}$  feet, so you multiply  $4\frac{2}{3} \times 1,024$  and get  $4,778\frac{2}{3}$  feet, so the speed of the projectile was  $4,778\frac{2}{3}$  feet per second. The  $\frac{2}{3}$  foot is equal to 8 inches, so this also reads 4,778 feet 8 inches per second. Remember always to read the distance between the holes punctured by the sparks, *in feet*.

You may think four feet is a long distance between sparks. If so, take a higher note on the piano, and tune the coil to that. The different vibrations per second are given in the table herewith, and you can take any note you wish, and get the exact number of sparks the coil is emitting.

Be careful not to touch any of the apparatus when the coil is buzzing, or you will get a terrific shock. And be sure to use wax paper, for holes punctured by a spark through ordinary paper are invisible. Also, if you haven't an ear for music, ask someone else to tune your coil. At least every other person you meet can do it.

Vibrations per second of notes on a piano, going up from Middle C:

C—256	d—576
d—288	e—640
e—320	f—682.6
f—341.3	g—768
g—384	a—853.3
a—426.6	b—960
b—480	c—1024
c—512	

## CAVEAT EMPTY

(Continued from page 19)

(Now for it!) I'll make you a present of the 7mm., just out of friendship. You give me the .33 WCF and twenty bucks, and yessir, by God, I'll make you a present of the 7mm.

*Friend:* (Jumping into the breach) George, old fellow! You can't do that. You're in business, man, to make money. You can't give your heart's blood away like this.

*Dealer:* (Magnificently) PLEASE! . . . This is friendship.

*Friend:* (Shaking his head, like Le Bret to Cyrano de Bergerac) All right. But you're a fool, George, a fool!

*You:* (Quickly, before it's too late) I'll take it, I'll take it. Here's twenty bucks and this lousy .33 WCF. But you're sure you're not doing yourself an injustice, now?

*Dealer:* (Skillfully abstracting the twenty bucks from your hands lest there be any mistake) No, no. It's all right. I've given my word.

*You:* (Seizing the precious 7mm. and clasping it to your left side, nearest the heart) Thanks, thanks, old man. I'll try to repay this some day. (You exit.)

*Dealer:* (Now that the sucker is gone) Lord, I've been trying to give that old 7mm. Mauser away for months—I tried to pay a guy to cart it out of the office last week, but he wanted too much money.

*Friend:* Yeah, you didn't do so bad. You know, this isn't a bad lookin' .33. Will you take five bucks for it?

*Dealer:* (Unconsciously going into his act before he can stop himself) Five bucks! My friend . . . are you screwy? Why, this .33 WCF was the favorite gun of the Kaiser when he went hunting moose in the Black Forest. Why, this gun—(etc., etc., etc.)—THE END.



## THE OLD COACH'S CORNER

(Continued from page 15)

ducing absolutely A1 match ammunition in quantities of millions of rounds. I sincerely hope that this is so, as it will mean a lot to the little fellow out in the sticks to be able to order, and surely get, ammunition capable of winning big matches.

Treat every score, and particularly every match score, as if it were a technical and ballistic problem in which you are trying to get every shot into the X-ring. Not merely the 10-ring, for that's not good enough. Concentrate upon this problem to the exclusion of everything else. Make it your own problem, with no one else concerned in it. Never mind the match, or the shooters on either side of you. Forget everything else—you have your problem. Don't get discouraged if one, two, or three shots wander out of the ring. Seventeen X's in twenty shots is superb. If you concentrate completely upon the problem, you will forget all stage fright; and if you solve the problem you will win the match. It will be the most absorbingly interesting problem you ever tackled, and it will also be great fun. Good rifle-shooting is great fun, and extremely self-satisfying. The solution of your problem begins when you take your rifle up early in the morning, and wipe last-night's grease from the bore; and the problem does not end until you have all the details of your score entered in your score book, and have seen the score on the bulletin board.

Study the champions—their methods, form, and equipment; but study them from afar, and do not bother them. You want eventually to number them among your friends, but if you make a nuisance of yourself you never will. If, on the other hand, you are quiet and unassuming, and they see that you are trying hard to succeed, pretty soon they will take you into the inner circle, and you will receive dope and coaching such as you could not get in any other way.

The hardest nut of all to crack is the standing position. Skill in that takes long, continued practice. It means practice and study—practice, either range or dry, every day for a year or perhaps more, together with continual self-study to improve your form and technique. The sooner you can get some good coaching on form, the better, for it would do you no good to practice in a faulty position for a year. Don't get discouraged. Skill will come very gradually, but surely, and when you get it you will be very much more proud of your standing than of your prone ability. I would not consider any man a real rifleman unless he could shoot at least fairly well standing. I wish every match included at least one standing score.

Don't neglect your book-study. You cannot afford to neglect the experience of others, as laid down in good books. But evaluate the author, and don't believe everything you see in print. May I particularly recommend to you "Military and Sporting Rifle Shooting" by Captain Crossman. Poor old Ed was a very close student of the game, and a careful observer and true recorder. He tried to pass the best dope he knew on to others. I regard this book of his as by far the best thing that has been written on rifle-shooting, even though it is concerned more with the big bore than the small bore. Also, don't neglect to read this magazine. There has not been an issue since its humble beginning in the 1880's that I have not read from cover to cover, or one from which I have not learned something. It is not infallible, and I am also bound to say that I often find things in it that I cannot agree with at all, but not so often as in other magazines. Articles in magazines must be short,

and they cannot begin to cover every phase of a subject. A good book is much better in this respect. In two years of a magazine there may not have been touched upon at all some very important matter, vital to you, but a good general book will probably cover it completely, and give it its proper weight. Read all you can, but don't believe all you read. Soon you will be able to separate the wheat from the chaff.

This article you are reading is a magazine article. It has to be short, and therefore I have been able to touch upon only a few items, and only briefly at that. There are dozens of other matters just as important. I shall try to "corner" them one at a time, but it will take time. The important things are to practice carefully and often, to study yourself and others, and to profit by the experience of the best shots, whether you get it by word of mouth or from their books. Slowly and eventually you will reach the top.

Stay with the game. Don't quit because you cannot get to the very top the first year. All the time it will be good sport—good enough, in fact, to stick with all your life. I am still sticking, and always will, and I have a whole raft of the finest friends a man ever had, up in the sixties and seventies, and two or three in the eighties, who are also sticking.

### LAMENT

By L. F. RUDMAN

Most of my friends will give me odds  
If I should care to bet  
On whether or not I'll ever be good—  
But I'm still in there yet!

(Woodring, Pope, Randle, and Lee—  
What have they got, compared to me?)

I'd meet the devil on even footing  
And break his bloody back,  
If it meant my getting a place on the team  
Or a lead o'er the hot-shot pack.

(Woodring, Pope, Randle, and Lee—  
What have they got, compared to me?)

There's a string of tens in the old gun yet,  
Of that I'm as sure as can be,  
But who will get 'em I don't know—  
'Cause it damn well won't be me!

(Woodring, Pope, Randle, and Lee—  
What have they got, compared to me?)

I've fretted and worried a lot 'bout the game  
And the medals I've never won,  
But what the hell—it ain't the fame,  
It's all in the spirit and fun.

(Woodring, Pope, Randle, and Lee—  
What have they got, compared to me?)

Whoever invented this cock-eyed game  
Sure musta been a nut;  
That gol-ding target looks easy to hit—  
BUT THE DAMN THING WON'T  
STAY PUT!

# OVER THE NEWS DESK

## INTERNATIONAL PISTOL TEAM

### U. S. Squad to Compete in Mexico City Matches

The first official N.R.A. pistol team to be sent into international shoulder-to-shoulder competition is now a reality, marking up another milestone in the rapid development of the sport on a nation-wide basis.

With the institution by the N.R.A. of national rankings for both pistol and rifle shooters in 1936, international team selection and competition was practically assured as the peak to shoot at. Rifle competition between United States teams and the pick of other countries already possessed a colorful background and history. The first international match between a championship Irish team and an American team, in fact, provided the necessary spark for rifle shooting interests in this country to launch a glory-filled epoch of national and international competitions which has been maintained through the rich background so early provided.

In 1886 pistol competition became a part of the regular N.R.A. program and National Matches. The international competition for various reasons, however, failed to keep pace with rifle internationals.

Because of such long established competition the riflemen within the high annual rankings therefore were the first to benefit under the new program. In 1937 and again this past year a squad of riflemen selected by the most careful methods possible was sent to England as an official N.R.A. team in a continuation of an already established shoulder-to-shoulder international match for the Pershing Trophy. It was understood at the time that as soon as similar competition could be arranged, the top ranking pistol shooters of the country would climax their individual national performance with an international one as a team. The first step was made in 1937 with the selection of a team from top performers at Camp Perry to fire a pistol match with several other countries. An international angle has also been injected into our national pistol matches in recent years through the visit of a Mexican police team, as well as similar visits by several Cuban teams at Tampa and other U. S. tournaments.

The next move then for shoulder-to-shoulder competition comes at a time when the pistol game is experiencing its highest level of standardization as well as performance. The announcement of the 1940 United States squad to be sent to Mexico City to return the visit of the popular Mexico City Police contingent will undoubtedly receive wide approval from the pistol world. To lend further encouragement to all classes of pistol shooters two teams will make up the squad, one an all-inclusive team regardless of service or civilian status, a high over all team selection which at no wonderment to anyone is mainly from the police group, and another team made up solely of civilians.

The teams have been chosen on the basis of the 1939 Averages. It naturally follows that in such a selection it was necessary to consider those who had fired sufficient number of rounds in registered competition to conclusively prove a true average. The firing of 500 rounds or more was considered suitable proof, therefore, as one of the first prerequisites. In the case of the less-traveled civilians, this requirement was necessarily lowered to 200 rounds. With this in mind, from the multitudinous but carefully kept records, calculating machines arbitrarily give us our first official N.R.A. team.

Heading the list again this year with the highest average of all shooters is the 1938 all-around champion, Alfred Hemming of Detroit (see 1939 Averages published elsewhere in this issue). Next comes the present U. S. all-around titleholder, Emmett Jones of Los Angeles. Harry Reeves, Detroit is third, Corporal G. Huddleston, U. S. Army fourth, and Walter Walsh of the F.B.I. fifth. No civilian equalled any of these averages which thus gives us a team of four police officers and one regular service man. The civilian quintet is made up of R. S. Marshall, Lima, Ohio, former Olympic team member who has an average of 93.81; Harold Cline, San Antonio, Texas, 93.78; Norman Adair, Tucson, Arizona 93.59; A. C. Ferguson, Ann Arbor, Michigan 93.48; C. A. Brown, Tampa, Florida, one of the most widely

(Continued on page 39)

*The popular Mexico City police pistol team, whose visits to Camp Perry are being returned this month by a picked squad of U. S. shooters who will compete in the annual Mexico City pistol matches.*



## TIMED FIRE with Bill Shadel

Last month we pointed out the highlights of 1939 as seen from this office. With annual reports still in mind and the all-important N.R.A. Directors and Members Meeting just ahead we turn statistician to give you some otherwise obscured facts.

For the N.R.A.—55,701 medals and 6,206 pins will show up somewhere among our junior membership as these were actually sent out by request, from the total of 77,720 for which they qualified. 249 instructors and 107 assistant instructors were commissioned to carry on for the juniors. 310 junior clubs added to the 958 re-affiliated in 1939.

A. W. vonStruve, Department of Commerce public relations, who, by way of calling attention to the 1940 Census, the nationwide survey of American activity and business, gives us these facts from the latest files.

"Rifles were turned out to a total of 913,056. Their value at the factories was \$7,365,425. Of these 424,149 were repeaters worth \$1,586,780 and 488,907 were singles valued at \$1,778,645. The total number of all commercial firearms produced was 1,604,558. These included rifles, revolvers, pistols, shotguns of all types, to an aggregate value of \$17,156,263."

"Ammunition and related products amounted in value to \$38,353,857. This included all cartridges for rifles, revolvers and pistols; loaded, blank, and empty shells for shotguns; empty cartridge cases, blanks, percussion caps and primers, gate value of \$17,156,263."

We want to mention:—A recent speech by our Assistant Secretary of War, Louis Johnson, wherein he called the nation's attention to the work of the National Rifle Association and the National Board for Promotion of Rifle Practice in maintaining "that American pride in individual marksmanship." Speaking at the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans he said, "In loyalty to the traditions of Old Hickory and the famous Beale Rifles, I trust that a more universal interest in marksmanship will be revived among you."

—the Spokesman-Review, of Spokane, Washington, gives a streamer head and three columns to the "eighth annual Spokesman-Review small bore tournament" which shows fifty-four teams participating. Newspaper sponsored shoots are one sure way of getting interest and publicity as New York, New England shooters well know through Ed Moore's promotion via N. Y. Journal-American columns.

—for the fleet-footed pistolers this note a Coral Gables Palmetto club member grapevines to us, "By March we are to have a dance floor under the Palmetto Palms." Sociable, entertaining, tough shooting—that's the Flamingo Tournament.

—The attractive calendar sent out as a publicity device by the Beverly (Mass.) Rifle & Revolver Club and given wide distribution through their complimentary mailing.

—Our congratulations to the newcomer in the field of state association bulletins sent out by Howard A. Wagner for all Kansas Riflemen.

—Again Paul Kearney, nationally known writer, deserves our thanks and appreciation for another interesting magazine article on shooting. The widely circulated "Family Circle" magazine, December issue, carried his excellent story on "Annie Oakley's Daughters." This on the heels of his lead article in November Esquire which carried the gun vs. bandits doctrine under the title "Six-Gun Jurisprudence."

# 1939 Ranking Averages

Here are the 1939 averages—rifle and pistol, for out of a mass of some 15,000 registrations from 194 tournaments during the year, representing better than 4,500,000 shots, pistol and small bore rifle shooters have again placed themselves in comparative positions.

As announced at the start of the season, the riflemen were for the first time considered on an average basis instead of the former system of ratio in place over number defeated. With emphasis placed on averages for the N.R.A. classification system instituted this past year, the old ratio basis for ranking was necessarily a duplicate of effort. The average basis for ranking of pistol shooters has been employed since 1937.

It is no surprise to find at the top of the list of riflemen, Bill Woodring, three-times national small bore champion and Bill Schweitzer, national mid-winter titleholder and Pershing Trophy team member. Likewise the pistol shooters will expect Al Hemming, and Emmett Jones, 1938 and 1939 all-around champions, respectively, at the top of the heap. But going down the list to any length we find the line of demarcation, a mere case of fractions to the second or third place beyond the decimal, too finely drawn to allow any headlining of stars. However, a closer examination of the top names emphasizes their right to these positions.

The general trend is worthy of notice. Scores and averages are moving up on the part of the mass of shooters with no noticeable gaps anywhere along the line from the 1st to the 1000th place. New names are breaking into the top places to take the place of better known names. Classification of all active tournament competitors has been more than doubled through the greatly increased number of registered tournaments and the popular acceptance and participation in these tournaments.

It should be pointed out that this list is the so-called ranking list with its requirement of 480 shots or more for the average. Another list will be made up of those who have 240 shots or more for definite classification. This will serve as the basis for classifying those so listed for the 1940 season. An additional list, a supplementary and temporary one, will be made up of those who have an average based only on 90-240 shots in pistol competition, or 120-240 in rifle.

This list will be subject to change throughout the year.

## RIFLE

In the rifle lists, Bill Woodring ran the gauntlet of some of the major tournaments of the season including Camp Perry, the Eastern Regional at Camp Ritchie and the Mid-Western regional at Rockford, Illinois. Out of the 46 matches affecting his average he shows at Camp Perry alone, six 400 possibles and at Rockford, three more. Although he lost out in the defense of his small bore rifle crown at Perry to Vere Hamer of Woodstock, Minnesota he showed his trigger finger had lost none of its cunning when he finished second. Hamer, tenth in the averages, depended mainly on his Camp Perry showing, with only one other tournament of six matches at Des Moines, Iowa. Bill Schweitzer, out of U. S. tournaments for some time while a member of the Pershing Trophy squad, left the country with an undisputed leadership at the National Mid-Winters at St. Petersburg through seven matches there, and another five events at Sea Girt in May. He returned to competition at Camp Perry to finish third in the Critchfield aggregate, chalking up four 400 possibles, a low of 396, two 397's and the remainder of fourteen matches 98's and 99's. In addition he is credited with one of the most outstanding rifle performances of the year when he ran up an unfinished string of 220 bull's-eyes in the Swiss Match. Jim Lacy built up his average at Camp Perry alone where he showed three 400 possibles out of fourteen matches there. Schimmel distributed his efforts over six tournaments around the midwest area. Triggs, in a

limited schedule at least for this otherwise much-traveled shooter, because of his membership on the Pershing Trophy squad, took in the Sea Girt matches and the Nationals and another three events at Wilmington, Delaware. Wilkens is next to Ned Moor in number of tournaments attended, with eight to his credit. But by far the most travelled person is the veteran Moor with fifteen tournaments ranging from Massachusetts to Illinois.

Adelaide McCord, the young lady who pulled a surprise by shooting into membership on the U. S. Dewar team and then proved her right to such membership by a 397-26x score, came through



GLORIA JACOBS

*High woman pistol shooter of 1939. Seventeen-year-old Gloria's 299 over the .22 caliber Camp Perry course makes her the first of her sex ever to hold a national pistol record.*

with further proof of her new-found ability by getting into eighth place of the averages. Credit cannot be denied her when she depended on eleven matches of the toughest possible competition at Camp Perry, plus the well known Vandergrift tournament and the Walnut Creek shoot at Erie, for her average. Another newcomer to be pointed out is Guy Drewry, Jr., of Washington, product of the junior rifle corps program, who reached Dewar team membership and an illustrious 400-25x in the match itself, his second year firing under senior status.

## PISTOL

Al Hemming, as defending champion of his national all-around title as well as the top ranking of the 1938 averages, played the role as everyone enjoys seeing it played—with the finest of sportsmanship. He was more than willing to defend his laurels and became the most travelled of all the pistol shooters with 15 tournaments to his record. These ranged from Auburn, Maine, the New England Regionals to Southeastern Regionals at Miami; the two Florida Mid-Winter affairs, the Eastern Regional at Ritchie, the Midwest Regional at Rockford, Illinois, the Savannah fall matches and others. To the interest of the game, he was many times vulnerable, especially with teammate Reeves around. Reeves took from him the Mid-Winter title at Tampa and the Savannah Southeastern championship. Reeves, with a third place average, also had a well balanced travel menu which included ten tournaments.

1939 was one of the best seasons for Emmett Jones as it gave him the national all-around title as well as an average only .12 of a point below the leader. Scores for his average were taken from the Pacific Regional at San Francisco, the Southwest-Internationals at San Diego and the California State matches at Los Angeles. Corporal Huddleston of the Infantry in fourth place and Major W. P. Richards, U. S. Marine Corps, in seventh place are the two servicemen to show in the honor class. Walsh, in fifth place, fired in six registered tournaments while Rogers next in line showed another of those varied programs, next to Hemming with twelve tournaments.

## RIFLE

Name	No. of Tour'n	No. of Shots	Average	Sub-normal Scores	"400" Possibles	Low Score
1. W. B. Woodring	6	1680	99.6548	3	13	382
2. W. P. Schweitzer	3	1040	99.5096	0	6	394
3. James E. Lacy	1	560	99.5	0	3	394
4. Ferdinand Schimmel	6	1000	99.48	2	2	383
5. R. D. Triggs	3	920	99.4783	0	6	393
6. L. A. Wilkens	8	1780	99.4775	3	10	380
7. Chas. Whipple	5	1200	99.4583	3	7	387
8. Adelaide McCord	3	600	99.45	3	0	381
9. Fred O. Eakins	3	480	99.4375	4	1	368
10. Vere Hamer	2	680	99.4265	3	3	383
11. E. N. Moor, Jr.	18	3620	99.4199	8	16	379
12. Guy Drewry, Jr.	2	660	99.4091	4	2	385
13. Kenneth Recker	4	1120	99.3571	4	4	387
14. Milton Klotz	6	1460	99.3493	1	7	391
15. Geo. E. Frost	3	900	99.3444	3	0	383
16. Wm. Patch	2	650	99.3385	2	2	383
17. Fred O. Kuhn	3	2090	99.3254	3	5	386
18. Tom Dunlap	5	880	99.3182	6	4	384
19. Fred Spencer	2	760	99.3158	1	3	390
20. John Wark	6	900	99.3111	3	3	383

## PISTOL

Name	Address	Average
1. Hemming, Alfred	Detroit, Michigan	95.6316
2. Jones, Emmett	Los Angeles, California	95.5151
3. Reeves, Harry W.	Detroit, Michigan	95.4343
4. Huddleston, Garfield, Cpl.	Fort Benning, Georgia	95.4135
5. Walsh, Walter, Lt.	Arlington, Virginia	95.0253
6. Rogers, Melton R.	Pt. Angeles, Washington	95.0055
7. Richards, Wm. P., Maj.	San Diego, California	94.6774
8. Chapman, Percy M.	Tacoma, Washington	94.6374
9. Askins, Charles, Jr.	El Paso, Texas	94.5786
10. Spavor, Paul C.	St. Louis, Missouri	94.303
11. Jensen, Jens, Sgt.	Ft. Riley, Kansas	94.2692
12. Goulden, Paul	Boston, Massachusetts	94.2359
13. Benner, Huelet L.	Ft. McClellan, Alabama	94.2089
14. O'Connor, Francis	Kansas City, Missouri	94.1724
15. LaLonde, Maurice W.	Detroit, Michigan	94.1439
16. Anderson, Arvid	Warroad, Minnesota	94.0169
17. Wilson, Melvon O.	Baltimore, Maryland	93.9775
18. Wilzewski, Richard V.	Barksdale Field, Louisiana	93.9333
19. Davis, Wm. J.	Tampa, Florida	93.8823
20. Glatly, James, Lt.	Ft. Riley, Kansas	93.8814



## "ADVANCED GUNSMITHING"

By W. F. VICKERY

Ever since learning, a year or two ago, that W. F. Vickery was writing a book on advanced gunsmithing, I have been eager and impatient to see the finished product. For, though it has not been my pleasure to know Mr. Vickery personally, I have come to know something about him, and to have a high regard for his mechanical ability and genius.

Born with a love for things mechanical, Mr. Vickery had a workshop in his home when he was eight years old; and he has been working with tools ever since. Being also a lover of guns, his shop work largely centered about them. His skill grew, and the fame of his craftsmanship spread, until finally the demand for his work became such that to satisfy it he had to make of gunsmithing a full-time business, and give up the work that had previously furnished him his livelihood. Thus he became a professional gunsmith, and today ranks as one of our best.

Mr. Vickery has written the type of book that I had hoped, and expected, he would write. Having himself started as an amateur, he knows all the problems that face the amateur. Knowing had to solve them himself, he knows all the answers. And with it all, he has the natural ability to explain things very simply and very clearly for the fellow who needs the information most.

This Vickery book deals with the metal-working phase of gunsmithing, from the not-too-difficult jobs, right up to those calling for the greatest knowledge and skill. It is profusely illustrated throughout, with photographs and drawings that really teach and explain.

Perhaps this book will find its greatest usefulness in the hands of the man who, while not wholly unfamiliar with metal-working tools and their use, still has much to learn before he can turn out gunsmithing work of the high order to which he aspires. This will include many so-called "professionals," as well as all amateurs who take their gunsmithing seriously. Only slightly less useful will the book be to the man who, though not interested in guns, has a shop in his home, and enjoys working in metal; for Mr. Vickery has included in his book much valuable general information on metal-working tools and their use, including the making of many special tools and devices.

This book is the work of an expert mechanic of wide experience, and is based upon that experience. It is not just one more book compiled from the works of others. I predict for it a wide sale, not only among those who like to use metal-working tools, but also those others who, loving guns, wish to know more about them.—L. J. HATHAWAY.

429 pages 7½ x 4¼; profusely illustrated; may be ordered from N.R.A. book department; price \$4.00.

## SMALL BORE INTERNATIONALS

The rumble of Europe's war has had its effect on the .22 caliber rifle game in no small measure, with many of the honored International Postal matches annually fired by the United States, Great Britain and the other English speaking countries lacking most of the teams that have fired in the past. Only match of the International series not to suffer wartime curtailment was the Dewar, which was as usual fought out between five 20-man teams. As announced before, the United States contingent, abandoning for the first time its early-morning rising, piled up an all time record of 7956, and an individual average of 397.8, with 6 possibles leading the way. In second position is the British team with 7921, followed by South Africa, 7774; Australia, 7550, and New Zealand, 7409.

The match for the Rheinisch-Westfälische Sprengstoff Trophy (RWS in simpler parlance) saw another record set for the 50 Meter course by the American team, which scored 3975 over the British 3927. Needless to say, no German team score was received. In the Railway match a sensational return of the trophy to this side of

the Atlantic was secured by the American team. Avenging defeat in 1938, when the record score was boosted to 7857 by the British, the American team "came back" by adding thirty-six points to that record! Owing to the war the British were unable to shoot this year, and Canada's team was severely set back by losing a half dozen team members at the last moment and having to fill the vacancies from among spectators, which accounts for their low score of 7697 against the American total of 7893. The FIDAC score of 1963 turned in by the United States team stands alone, with Belgium, France and Great Britain out of the picture as long as war clouds the European horizon.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Highlighting activities at national headquarters this month will be the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association, with interest centered around the colorful annual dinner, to be held Friday night, February second. As always, this occasion will find official Washington, in the persons of Congressmen, high ranking government officials and military leaders, joining with the Board of Directors and members and friends of the Association to mark the completion of another year of progress for the N.R.A. No list of speakers has as yet been announced, but it is certain to be as distinguished as last year's when General George Marshall, Chief of Staff, and Detroit's Police Commissioner Pickert addressed the assembly.

Friday afternoon will be given over to the business meeting, which will feature the election of officers for the coming year. Though a bit late now to make plans to attend, the invitation still is cordially extended to all members and friends of the Association to be present for the meeting and dinner. Reservations should be placed with the Secretary if possible.

## MONTHLY CLUB BULLETIN INSTITUTED

On January 15 a new service for affiliated N.R.A. Senior clubs began, when the first of a series of Bulletins to assist in the operation of these groups was mailed to each secretary.

This Bulletin service was instituted to cover subjects of interest to club organizations which are not general enough to be carried in the columns of the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN. A list of the subjects tentatively scheduled includes club finances, club competitions, general range procedure, membership drives, local publicity, etc. As was stated these subjects are tentative. The Club Service Division hopes and trusts that club members will not hesitate to suggest other subjects which they think will be of general interest to the affiliated bodies. Even if your local problem is not general enough to be covered in the Bulletin, every effort will be made to assist you in its solution.

The purpose of the Bulletin is threefold. First it is hoped that the service will draw club units closer to the parent organization and thus assure closer cooperation in the pursuit of common aims. Secondly, the Bulletin subjects are to be selected so as to assist the club secretaries and members in building a more efficient organization and a more complete program within the club. Finally the Association expects to receive comments which will help the officers in determining the future policies of the N.R.A.

With cooperation from the club secretaries and members the Headquarters Staff believes that this

Bulletin service can successfully meet a great many of the needs of the chartered clubs.

## MCGINLEY BANQUET

For fourteen years police officers of the east have enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. T. A. McGinley at his Annual Pistol Tournament on Columbus Day. This fall the shooters turned the tables on their former host and invited him to be with them at a "small" dinner in Pittsburgh. It was a small gathering of friends when compared to the many the honored guest has made, but even so over six hundred gathered in the Hotel William Penn on the evening of December 20th to do him honor. They came from all the eastern seaboard and many of those that could not be present in person were in attendance in spirit through letters and telegrams.

No need to tell here of the tributes paid Mr. McGinley by such persons as Mr. Anderson, Toastmaster; Colonel G. E. A. Fairley, Director of Public Safety for Pittsburgh; The Honorable Andrew T. Kelly, Allegheny County District Attorney or by The Honorable Cornelius D. Scully, Mayor of Pittsburgh, except to say that each paid fitting tribute to a gentleman and a sportsman of the highest order.

Under such sponsorship may the Sewickley Tournament each October grow and prosper.

## LOST AND FOUND

Looks as though we had better institute a lost-and-found department. Frank Kahrs, writing from the Remington Arms Company offices at Bridgeport, Connecticut, reports finding a tube sight in the back of his car after an extended trip through the Western and Southern states. This, says Frank, may not be exactly the kind of story desired for the News Desk pages, but certainly will be the finest kind of news for the fellow who lost the sight. So, if the owner will yell loudly enough his tube sight will be returned to him.

Another nameless N.R.A. member, apparently coming East from Denver on the C. B. & Q., left a val-a-pack bag on the car, said bag not being found until the train had unloaded at Chicago. Only clues to the identity of the owner were the N.R.A. member's button in the lapel of a coat found in the bag, and the clothier's label, indicating the suit had been purchased in Akron from the M. O'Neil Company. The owner may retrieve both bag and contents by writing W. G. Fetzner, Chief Special Agent, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Co., Chicago, Illinois.

## INTERNATIONAL PISTOL TEAM

(Continued from page 37)

known civilian competitors and promoters, 93.41. The team captain and coach are undecided as we go to press. So, also is the above membership now waiting each individual's response. Alternates will be chosen from those ranking next in each group.

The team members will have all expenses paid by the N.R.A. Provision has been made for travel by rail individually to the assembling point at San Antonio. From there a special car will carry them on into Mexico. The trip for the most part will take about two weeks. Actual days of firing will be February 17, 18 and 19. The annual recognition attained by the men highest in the season's averages merits the responsibility and the honor now theirs of representing the United States pistol shooters in this first official team. As they leave this month, we wish them enjoyment, success and the necessary breaks of the game.

## CONSERVATIONISTS MEET

The 18th Annual Convention of the Izaak Walton League of America will be held at the Congress Hotel, Chicago, March 28, 29 and 30.

The Fifth Annual North American Wildlife Conference, sponsored jointly this year by the American Wildlife Institute and the National Wildlife Federation, will be held in Washington, March 18, 19 and 20.

# —so they tell us:

## REPLY TO A GROUCH:

After reading the anonymous letter headed "RED, WHITE AND BOO" I feel that since criticism is heaped upon me and my teammate Reeves, I will make an attempt to clarify an erroneous impression that seems to prevail in Mr. Grouch's mind, as well as in that of many other shooters.

When I started shooting I looked with awe and admiration at the shooters who were leading the game at the time. In Michigan the leaders were civilians, and I will admit that I envied their ability, but it did not occur to me to ask them for any concessions.

The shooting which I and my teammates engage in is strictly voluntary and if we indicate our intentions of trying out for the Detroit Police Pistol Team, we do so under the following conditions:

1. That we will shoot twice a week at scheduled times, four times over the national course: Once with the .22 caliber, twice with the .38 or center-fire caliber, and once with the .45 caliber. This schedule starts early in May and ends early in October. Every single round fired for record in this series of elimination matches is supplied by ourselves at our own expense.

2. That we will report to the range at a certain time regardless of what shift we may be working. If we should be working on the day shift, we are excused early to get to the range at the prescribed time for firing. If we are on the afternoon shift, the shooting is done on our own time. If we are working the midnight shift, it is done on our own time. There is no time granted for this practice shooting when we work afternoons or midnights.

We are fortunate in having a very fine range in Detroit, but it is only in the past three years that we have been so fortunate. Before that we got permission from a neighboring community to place targets on their city dump where we conducted our practice with very makeshift equipment. Our own range was built of salvaged and donated materials with the aid of welfare labor and a great deal of our own elbow grease.

No ammunition company furnishes us with ammunition for practice or matches. In matches where we officially represent the Detroit Police Department our ammunition is furnished, and in some cases our entry fees are paid, but during the past season I have engaged in nine shoots on my own time and at my own expense, in some cases driving all night before the matches and all night after the matches because I only had one regular leave day in which to drive from two to four hundred miles each way and do the shooting also.

As for guns, I have twenty some pistols and revolvers, two of which I won in competition. Every one of the others I paid for with my own money. The special work runs up as high as \$55 on one gun alone. In a sense I am much the same as the cowboy of old who had a fine horse and a fine saddle, and holes in his pants. I have been in the police department thirteen years and have a car, twenty some guns, and reloading equipment. This represents my earthly accumulation of thirteen years.

I understand that any citizen of good standing in the state of Michigan is permitted by law to follow my example of spending all his money, above the necessities of life, for a hobby such as shooting and I will gladly assist Mr. Grouch or any beginner in learning the technique of reloading, as I have considerable experience, having spent Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, with rare exception, in my folks' basement reloading for the past eight or nine years. Every member of our team has his own reloading machine and reloads on his own time. We purchase our own supplies so that our activity in shooting is of no expense to the city, taxpayers, or police department, except in official matches when we officially represent our department, and even at

such times the bulk of the expense is paid by the men themselves.

As for criticism of the classification system, I have no comment to make except that a rule prohibiting a man from improving could probably never be arranged, and when a man shoots above his classification it may be that the individual has developed an interest in shooting which is comparable to my own, and would, therefore, give him more rapid results than the casual shooter who wishes for scores, but lacks the intestinal fortitude to fight for them.

ALFRED W. HEMMING.

Detroit Police Department.

## SHOULDER STOCKS

In the last RIFLEMAN I note in a Stoeger classified advertisement the mention that Luger pistols are not wanted with "stock attaching spur" since it is unlawful to sell, purchase or possess a Luger with spur attached. I will greatly appreciate any light that you may be able to throw on the meaning of the above. This would evidently refer to an attached shoulder stock, but I know of no such prohibition, since several arms use such attachments, among them the recently legalized Marble Game Getter.

I know that arms capable of firing full automatic, such as one model of the Mauser 7.62-mm., are classified as machine guns, and fall under the restriction of the Federal law. However, I am unable to understand upon what the "stock-attaching spur" statement of Stoeger is based. Knoxville, Tennessee.

STUART STAIR.

● About two years ago the Treasury Department began to check up on Luger and Mauser pistols which were not registered to determine whether or not they were fitted with some means of attaching a shoulder stock. There has recently been an appeal on this question which was answered in a decision of the Treasury Department a month ago. To quote from this decision:

"Section 1(a) of the National Firearms Act, as amended, expressly excludes pistols and revolvers from the definition of the term 'firearm,' but it is the view of this office that a pistol made with a lug or other facility for the purpose of holding a shoulder stock is something more than a 'pistol or revolver.' It is therefore held that Luger semi-automatic pistols, the grips of which have lugs for the attachment of shoulder stocks, are 'firearms' within the meaning of section 1(a) of the National Firearms Act, as amended."

I believe that the quotation of this ruling will answer your question as to the attitude of the Stoeger Company towards Lugers with spurs for the attachment of shoulder stocks. The same ruling will apply to Mauser pistols which have slots for the attachment of such stock and to bicycle pistols and any other arm of a similar type, except the Game-Getter.—Ed.

## A BOOSTER

I wish I could shake your hand for this last RIFLEMAN. I have read it from cover to cover. I am one of the small bore shooters that needs help. The articles by Captain Andrews and the Old Coach and Match Par by Ed. Bridgeman, will I feel help us to make better scores and add a great deal to the enjoyment of our hobby.

I wrote the Old Coach a few months ago and asked him for this kind of data. Now I want to thank him for his response. I would like to know just how many tyros or members write in and thank the Editor for this good work.

I am proud to be an American and I still think I can earn my board for Uncle Sam at the front lines if need be, to defend our rights, our homes and last but not least our mothers and daughters. Finland must be proud of their Sergeant who so ably defended his country. That demonstrates what preparedness means to a people.

Whitefish, Montana.

DON J. W. TIBBITS.

# Tournament Reviews

## SAN FRANCISCO TRAFFIC POLICE MONTHLY PISTOL MATCHES

Seventeen-year-old Gloria Jacobs, top feminine handgun star of the West Coast, became the first girl ever to chalk up a national pistol record when she turned in a sensational 299 over the .22 caliber Camp Perry Course in the December tournament of the San Francisco Traffic Police Revolver Club. Gloria's score was twelve points ahead of her nearest competitor in the women's match in which it was fired, and of more importance, a point ahead of the previous world mark set up by Walter Walsh, FBI pistolcer. Fired on December 17th over the beautifully laid-out Fort Funston range, near San Francisco, a total of eighty shooters registered for the most popular of the three matches fired.

In the lead-off event, five-man teams over the Camp Perry Course, any caliber, the home towners won top laurels as the San Francisco Police Club team of Wormser, Ahern, Scott, Brune and Flocchini turned in a 1427 total to top A Class teams. In B Class the 30th Infantry squad led with 1390. It was in this match that Gloria Jacobs' record score appeared, with the feminine competitors firing individually along with the teams. In match number two, National Match Course with the .38's, Paul Wormser came into lead position with a 289, ahead of Papa H. R. Jacobs' second place 278, Ahern's 277 in third and Gloria's 276 for fourth. G. Curo led the Experts with a 286. The sharpshooters were paced by R. J. Miller with 279 and Frank Kallam topped the Marksmen with 286. In the last match of the schedule, N. M. Course with the small caliber guns, Gloria slipped into win position again with a 292 total for the 30 shots, pacing Jack Ahern and Paul Wormser, who landed in second and third places with 283's. G. Curo led the Experts with 286 and the Sharpshooter first medal fell to S. Lohmeyer for his 286. Walter Allen's 273 paced the Marksmen group. High Tyro was R. Elsmann with 266.

## NON-REGISTERED EVENTS

**HAWAII — Territorial Police Pistol Matches.** The third annual matches of the Territorial Law Enforcement Agencies were staged on the Wailua range at Kauai, T.H., on the week-end of September 19-21, with officers of ten island law enforcement departments participating. Over sixty marksmen journeyed via the Coast Guard vessel Roger B. Taney to the garden island of Kauai to take part in the nine-event schedule.

T. Awana of the Honolulu Police Department triumphed in the first of the matches, fired over the National Match Course with a .22 caliber score of 280. Right behind him with 278 was Curtis Sylva of the Maui force. The Customs Patrol team of G. Roberts and T. Kawamura took the 25-yard timed-fire event for two-man teams with a 384 total, Roberts scoring 194 to his partner's 190. Sylva came to the fore in the .38 National Match Course event with 282, leading Roberts and Awana, who turned in 275 and 271.

The .45 caliber N. M. Course match found Awana again in win position with a 256, topping Roberts by two points over the 30-shot course. Awana without much trouble took the aggregate made up of the first three individual events, again leading Roberts by a two-point margin.

In the five-man team event over the Camp Perry Police Course, the Honolulu force's quintet came in ahead of 11 other teams entered, with Awana's 286 leading as high individual. A similar match, but this time with the .45's over the National Match Course, fell to the same group, and Awana turned in high score of 253. The last two matches, also five-man team affairs over the National Match Course, found the same story repeated as the Honolulu Police team, paced by Awana, led the entries in.

**ARIZONA—State Association Small Bore Championships.** Eighty-six competitors took part in the small bore shoot staged by the Tucson Rifle Club on October 7 and 8, with seven matches programmed for the small caliber fans. The only dark spot in the proceedings was on Saturday, when showers and wind squalls marred an otherwise fine shooting day, and did their bit to keep scores below par.

Tom Imler, old-timer of Tucson, took the 50 yard metallic event with a 399 and 28 X's, and the second match, 100 yards, iron sights, fell to V. Walker with a 391 and 20 X's. Match number three, Dewar any sights, was won by R. Dixon, who turned in a 395 to lead his nearest competitor by a three point margin. The 100 yard any sight match went to C. Burns for his 396, and a 399 snared first place for J. Taylor in the 50 yard any sight affair. Twelve teams entered the Dewar 4-man match, with Bisbee coming out ahead of second placing Tucson and third placer University of Arizona contingents. The last match of the schedule, Dewar iron, went to G. Parker, who turned in a 397 with 22 X's to lead the pack in. Imler's consistent scoring, despite his placing in first position but once, was good enough to give him the grand aggregate, on a total score of 2758, two points ahead of R. S. Dixon.

The Tucson rifle range has undergone many improvements during the last year, and with more planned for the next six months, it will be one of the finest ranges in the Southwest.

**OHIO—The Summit County Rifle League's** .30 caliber schedule wound up with the Highland Rifle Club proving to be the undefeated champions over five competing rifle clubs.

The Highland riflemen won all matches without a single loss and were presented a trophy at the Summit County Rifle League presentation banquet, October 28.

The five high men whose aggregate scores won this award are all expert riflemen and their names and individual scores, taken from a possible 400 points, will be appropriately engraved on the trophy in the following order: W. Baumgardner 379, J. Hine 371, P. Richards 366, J. Baumgardner 365, R. Law 349.—PAUL W. RICHARDS.

**MISSISSIPPI—The Mississippi Rifle and Pistol Association** held a statewide shoot on Armistice Day on the club range of the Capital club at Jackson, Mississippi. In spite of adverse weather some 60 match entries testified to the newly aroused interest in pistol and rifle shooting throughout the state. The cooperation of Major T. B. Birdsong, Jr., head of the State Highway Patrol and president of the Jackson club, himself an enthusiastic exponent of the shooting game with a fine record in the "Mississippi-Tennessee Peace Officer's Association competitions," made possible the range facilities of the "Patrol's" 16 point pistol range nearing completion. A nearby 100 yard small bore range accommodated the rifle shooters.

The medal for "best all-around pistol shooter" went to J. H. Martin, with M. M. Mitchell placing second. M. W. Moore won the .22 pistol match. In the rifle matches, Ray M. Fink led the pack with three first places, J. F. Brown was next with two second places and M. W. Smith third with one second place. R. E. Rickman placed third in the metallic sights match.

A group from the "Big Skillet Club" of Meridian were present and took that opportunity to invite the state secretary, Walter E. Price, Jr., to come over and preside at the formation of an NRA club, and then to join them in one of their famous steak fries from the "big skillet." Indications point to a new club for Laurel soon also. Plans are under way for a two-day shoot at Camp Shelby in late spring when use can be made of the new facilities there. Tryouts for the 1940 state civilian team will be held at that time also.—WALTER E. PRICE, JR.

## Coming Events

**FLORIDA.** It's getting around to the time that pistol and rifle shooters all over the snow-bound northern States begin to think about the possibility of a winter vacation in Florida—and there could hardly be a better excuse than to attend the Southland's big three shootin' meets—St. Petersburg's small bore, and pistol at Tampa and Miami. Dates have been set, plans for the tourneys completed and everything is in readiness for the "Winter Circuit" in March. Better plan to inaugurate the 1940 outdoor season by joining the pilgrimage to Florida.

**St. Petersburg.** Leading off as usual will be the St. Petersburg small bore matches. Dates for this premier Southern tourney have been definitely selected as March 6 to 10 inclusive, and this annual Mid-Winter "Camp Perry" will offer the same in hospitality and tough competition that has lured so many small borers South in years past.

This is unquestionably one of the country's most enjoyable "shoots," with a splendid range, ample leg-room on all firing points, plenty of shade for those who want to acquire their "tanning" gradually from the warm southern sun, an ideal program over the standard courses plus unique specialty matches of unusual interest, an experienced and exceptionally capable operations staff, and ample time for leisurely enjoyment of St. Pete's many winter-vacation attractions.

This year for the first time, special cash prizes will be given for the top three places in the aggregate for each of the Master, Expert and Sharpshooter classifications—\$25, \$15 and \$10. These new cash prizes are in addition to the handsome trophy, awarded annually to the Mid-Winter Champion. So make your plans right now for a "family party" in friendly sunny St. Pete.

**Tampa.** Right on the heels of the St. Pete rifle's holiday will be Tampa's Mid-Winters for the pistoleroes, to be staged from March 12 to 16. Brother, here's a meet that the pistol shooters don't forget, once they've attended. It wasn't so many years ago that we were first there, being skeptical along with everyone else as to the success of the tourney. That year attendance beat all records, and has been doing it ever since. The competition always is keen, with the best of the nation's handgun experts on the line, and there always is an international flavor lent by the visiting shooters from our neighboring Latin countries—Cuba always well represented, and this year Smitty Brown, genial promoter of the affair, promises that several new South American countries will be represented by contingents of pistol shooting ambassadors.

The number of cash prizes to be awarded has been increased, and the N.R.A. classification system will of course be in full swing. Add to this the attractions of Tampa—the color of Ybor City, Tampa's Cuban sector—the Gasparilla Carnival for those who arrive early enough—the outdoor sports that are in full swing all winter—what vacation for the pistolero could be more made to order?

**Miami.** On March 19, two days after the last shot is fired at the National Mid-Winter in Tampa, the Third Annual Flamingo Open Pistol Tournament will get under way. Again the Palmetto Pistol Club will play host to the nation's shooters in a program equal to any tournament yet scheduled. Thirty-one matches embracing qualification, individual, team and woman's championship are scheduled over the five days of shooting and are so arranged that the visitors will have ample opportunity to enjoy the winter sporting facilities and wonderful climate of the Greater Miami area. "Flamingo" Kelley, Tournament Manager, has arranged a series of matches with awards and cash prizes surpassed by no tournament in the United States.

The host club refuses to reveal what innovations and improvements will be offered the competitors and guests, but past experience leads us to believe that those attending the Flamingo this year will not be disappointed.

As an added incentive, the aggregates and all National Match Course matches have been set up under the National Rifle Association qualifications, and in the aggregates, awards and cash prizes will be so classified.

As has been the custom in the past, an extensive program of entertainment has been arranged, winding up with the banquet and dance Saturday evening, March 23, at the beautiful Coral Gables Country Club.

**ILLINOIS.** For those of us who can't escape the cold by a jaunt to Florida, there are the University of Chicago's indoor matches, to be fired this year on the weekend of March 29 to 31. Highlights of the big indoor tourney include the Inter-collegiate shoulder-to-shoulder tournament, to be fired Friday with an estimated entry of about 150 competing in the team and individual events; the Morgan Park Military Match fired all day Saturday will bring another 150 or so high school riflers to the line. About the open tournament little need be said—406 last year entered the matches, and they're expecting 700 or so to show up on the U. of C. campus for the 1940 meet. All together, this big indoor tourney offers about as well rounded a "father-and-son" program as any shoot ever staged indoors and continues to bulk as one of the two or three most important of U. S. indoor shoots. The open shoot will be held as usual in the great University gym, scene of last year's international radio match between British and U. S. champion teams.

### CALIFORNIA

**\*February 4:** West Coast Metallic Sight Championship Tournament. San Diego, California. Sponsored by the Southern California Small Bore League. For programs write Al Mason, 4641 Maubert Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

**\*February 11:** 5th Annual Ind-Off-Hand Rifle Matches, Sacramento Filtration Plant Range, California. Sponsored by Capital City Rifle and Revolver Club. For programs write Ray Murphy, 2753 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, California.

**\*February 18:** S. F. Traffic Police Monthly Tournament, Fort Funston, California. Sponsored by S. F. Traffic Police Revolver Club. For programs write E. J. Dutil, 324 16th Avenue, San Francisco, California.

**\*March 3:** Southland Pistol Match, San Diego, California. Sponsored by San Diego Police Revolver Club. For programs write R. S. Pease, Route 3, Box 84, San Diego, California.

**\*March 17:** S. F. Traffic Police Monthly Tournament, Fort Funston, California. Sponsored by S. F. Traffic Police Revolver Club. For programs write E. J. Dutil, 324 16th Avenue, San Francisco, California.

**\*March 30:** National Intercollegiate Team and Individual Matches, University of California, Berkeley, California. Sponsored by N. R. A. For programs write N. R. A.

**\*April 21:** S. F. Traffic Police Monthly Tournament, Fort Funston, California. Sponsored by S. F. Traffic Police Revolver Club. For programs write E. J. Dutil, 324 16th Avenue, San Francisco, California.

**\*May 19:** S. F. Traffic Police Monthly Tournament, Fort Funston, California. Sponsored by S. F. Traffic Police Revolver Club. For programs write E. J. Dutil, 324 16th Avenue, San Francisco, California.

**\*June 2:** Southland Pistol Match, San Diego, California. Sponsored by San Diego Police Revolver Club. For programs write R. S. Pease, Route 3, Box 84, San Diego, California.

### CONNECTICUT

**February 4:** Small Bore Rifle Match, New Haven, Connecticut. Sponsored by Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association. For programs write Ward C. Hunt, Woodmont, Conn.

**February 10:** Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association annual meeting to be held at Winchester Club rooms, New Haven, Connecticut.

**March 1-2-3:** Gallery Championship Match, New Haven, Connecticut. Sponsored by Conn. State Rifle & Revolver Association. For programs write Ward C. Hunt, Woodmont, Conn.



**March 17:** Small Bore Rifle Match, New Haven, Connecticut. Sponsored by Connecticut State Rifle & Revolver Association. For programs write Ward C. Hunt, Woodmont, Conn.

**\*March 30:** National Intercollegiate Team and Individual Matches, Goffe Street Armory, New Haven, Connecticut. Sponsored by National Rifle Association. For programs write National Rifle Association.

**April 7:** Pistol and Revolver Match, New Haven, Connecticut. Sponsored by Connecticut State Rifle & Revolver Association. For programs write Ward C. Hunt, Woodmont, Conn.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**February 22:** 3rd Annual District of Columbia Championship Rifle Match, Washington, D. C. Sponsored by Marine Corps Headquarters Rifle Club. For programs write Arthur G. Hamilton, Room 3321, Navy Building, Washington, D. C.

**March 16:** 2nd Annual Invitational High School Rifle Tournament, Washington, D. C. Sponsored by the Georgetown University Rifle Club. For programs write Victor Wales, Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.

**\*March 30:** National Intercollegiate Team and Individual Matches, N. R. A. Range, Washington, D. C. Sponsored by N. R. A. For programs write N. R. A.

#### FLORIDA

**\*March 6-10:** National Mid-Winter Small Bore Tournament, St. Petersburg, Florida. For programs write T. F. Bridgland, 2742 Second Avenue, South, St. Petersburg, Florida.

**\*March 12-16 inc.:** National Mid-Winter Pistol Tournament, Tampa, Florida. Sponsored by Floridian Pistol Club. For programs write C. A. Brown, Hotel Thomas Jefferson, Tampa, Fla.

**\*March 19-23:** Flamingo Open Pistol Tournament, Coral Gables, Florida. Sponsored by Palmetto Pistol Club. For programs write A. T. Kelly, Jr., P. O. Box 43, Coral Gables, Fla.

#### ILLINOIS

**February 3-10:** Navy Pier Rifle and Pistol Tournament, Chicago, Illinois. For programs write Russell Wiles, Jr., 5830 Stony Island Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

**March 16-17:** 2nd Annual Open 50 Foot Gallery Tournament, Chicago, Illinois. Sponsored by Commonwealth Edison Rifle and Revolver Club. For programs write J. A. Morrison, Room 636, Edison Building, Chicago, Illinois.

**\*March 29:** National Intercollegiate Team and Individual Matches, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. Sponsored by National Rifle Association. For programs write N. R. A.

**\*March 29-30-31:** Fifth Annual University of Chicago Midwest Indoor Championship, Chicago, Illinois. Sponsored by University of Chicago. For programs write Russell Wiles, Jr., 5830 Stony Island Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

#### MASSACHUSETTS

**February 25:** Annual Gallery Rifle Matches, Beverly, Massachusetts. Sponsored by Beverly Rifle and Revolver Club. For programs write David C. McNeill, 33 Beckford Street, Beverly, Massachusetts.

**April 6:** Annual Junior Rifle Matches, Beverly, Massachusetts. Sponsored by Beverly Rifle & Revolver Club. For programs write David C. McNeill, 33 Beckford Street, Beverly, Mass.

#### MINNESOTA

**\*February 11:** Minneapolis N. R. A. Registered Pistol Tournament, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sponsored by First Nat. Rifle & Pistol Club and U. of Minn. Rifle Club. For programs write George J. Kuch, First Nat. Bank and Trust Co., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**\*March 9-10:** Minneapolis N. R. A. Registered Rifle Tournament, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sponsored by First Nat. Rifle & Pistol Club and U. of Minn. Rifle Club. For programs write George J. Kuch, First Nat. Bank and Trust Co., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

#### MISSISSIPPI

**\*March 16:** National Intercollegiate Team and Individual Matches, Mississippi State College, State College, Mississippi. Sponsored by N. R. A. For programs write N. R. A.

#### MISSOURI

**March 15-16:** Midwest "Indoor Camp Perry", Boonville, Missouri. Sponsored by Kemper Military School. For programs write Major B. R. DeGraff, Kemper Military School, Boonville, Missouri.

#### MONTANA

**\*June 20-23:** 15th Annual Northwest Matches, Fort Missoula, Montana. Sponsored by Northwest Rifle Association. For programs write T. A. Krall, Milltown, Montana.

#### NEBRASKA

**\*March 30:** National Intercollegiate Team and Individual Matches, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska. Sponsored by N. R. A. For programs write N. R. A.

#### NEW JERSEY

**May 17-18-19:** Rock View Pistol Tournament, Montague, New Jersey. Sponsored by Rock View House. For programs write William Lewis, 164 West State, Trenton, New Jersey.

**May 24-25:** Wilburtha Pistol Tournament, Wilburtha, New Jersey. Sponsored by N. J. State Police.

#### NEW YORK

**February 11 and 18:** New York Metropolitan Indoor Rifle Matches, Brooklyn, New York. For programs write William E. Trull, Mt. Vernon, New York.

**February 17:** Annual Indoor Pistol Match, Roslyn, Long Island, New York. Sponsored by Roslyn Rifle and Revolver Club. For programs write S. E. Ellis, 26 Kennworth Road, Roslyn, Long Island, New York.

**February 18:** First Annual National Sportsmen's Show Rifle Match, Grand Central Palace, New York, N. Y. Open to representatives of any rifle team or club in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. For programs write Ed Moore, New York American Journal, 220 South St., New York, N. Y.

**\*April 20-21:** 5th Annual Niagara Frontier Indoor Pistol Tournament, Buffalo, New York. Sponsored by Buffalo Revolver & Rifle Club. For programs write Wallace A. Beattie, 829 Ashland Avenue, Buffalo, New York.

#### OHIO

**February 10-11:** 3rd Annual Indoor Match, Cincinnati, Ohio. Sponsored by Mariemont Rifle & Pistol Club. For programs write Orville W. Jones, 2810 Losantville Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**\*February 24-25:** Individual Rifle Matches, Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio. Sponsored by Ohio Rifle and Pistol Association. For programs write Miles E. Goll, 119 Forest Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.

**\*March 3:** 6th Annual Goodrich Open Pistol Tournament, Akron, Ohio. Sponsored by Summit County Pistol League. For programs write J. C. Kelsey, 133 Highpoint Avenue, Akron, Ohio.

**\*March 9-10:** North Central Ohio Gallery Tournament, Ashland, Ohio. Sponsored by Ashland Rifle & Pistol Club. For programs write Stuart M. Martin, Ashland, Ohio.

**\*March 31:** 15th Annual Ohio Pistol Tournament, Columbus, Fort Hayes, Ohio. Sponsored by Ohio Rifle & Pistol Association. For programs write Miles E. Goll, 119 Forest Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.

**April 6-7:** Eastern Ohio Gallery Rifle Tournament, New Philadelphia, Ohio. Sponsored by Tusco Rifle Club. For programs write Warren H. Tonkin, 933 West High Avenue, New Philadelphia, Ohio.

**April 13-14:** 9th Annual Ohio Rifle Team Tournament, Columbus, Fort Hayes, Ohio. Sponsored by Ohio Rifle & Pistol Association. For programs write Miles E. Goll, 119 Forest Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.

#### PENNSYLVANIA

**March 5:** General meeting of shooters in the Philadelphia district to be held at the Oak Terrace Country Club, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For information write L. D. Schuber, 7421 Beverly Road, Philadelphia, Pa.

**\*March 16-17:** Allegheny County Indoor Pistol & Revolver Tournament, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by Neville Island Gun Club. For programs write C. J. Code, 42 East Steuben Street, Crafton, Pennsylvania.

#### TEXAS

**February 18:** 6th Annual Mid-Winter High Power Rifle Match, Laredo, Texas. Sponsored by Laredo Rifle & Pistol Club. For programs write Ralph M. Barry, Laredo, Texas.

**\*March 9:** Second Annual South Texas Indoor Pistol Tournament, Houston, Texas. Sponsored by Bayou Rifle, Inc. For programs write Frank Wood, 1413 Prairie Avenue, Houston, Texas.

#### VERMONT

**March 23-24:** Gallery Pistol Match. Sponsored by Vermont State Rifle and Pistol Association. For programs write P. H. Teachout, Underhill Center, Vermont.

**April 20-21:** Gallery Rifle Match. Sponsored by Vermont State Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc. For programs write P. H. Teachout, Underhill Center, Vermont.

**May 25-26:** Large Bore Match. Sponsored by Vermont State Rifle & Pistol Association. For programs write P. H. Teachout, Underhill Center, Vermont.

#### WASHINGTON

**\*March 30:** National Intercollegiate Team and Individual Matches, Vancouver Barracks, Seattle, Washington. Sponsored by N. R. A. For programs write N. R. A.

#### WISCONSIN

**February 11:** Land O'Lakes Gallery Matches, Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Sponsored by Ladysmith Rifle Club. For programs write E. L. A. Bruger, Ladysmith, Wisconsin.

\* Indicates Registered Tournaments.

#### OBITUARIES

**Captain Charles Goff.** The San Francisco Traffic Police Revolver Club mourns the loss of its President, Captain Charles Goff. Gauged by any standard, Captain Charles Goff stands high in the field of human values.

He was the founder of the San Francisco Traffic Police Revolver Club and one of its solid supporters, working tirelessly up to the very end for a better understanding between the Police and Civilian membership of the Club. He gave freely of his time and energy for the common good of the club. The members owe much to his able leadership and kindly help. By his death San Francisco and other communities he served so well lose a vital and human force for good that will be sorely missed.

**Alfred V. Wilhelmsen.** Alfred V. Wilhelmsen, 53, well known Vermont rifleman, one of the organizers of the State Rifle and Pistol Association, and co-founder of the Barre Rifle and Pistol Club of Barre, Vermont, died of a heart attack December 21.

Mr. Wilhelmsen was secretary-treasurer of the Steele Granite corporation, but was better known throughout New England as a popular sportsman with rifle shooting, gunsmithing and stockmaking his hobby. His work was known to riflemen as the finest and most painstaking.

#### GUNS STOLEN

Lost or stolen: Mrs. H. C. B. Weston would like to locate a Smith and Wesson 357 Revolver which she noticed her husband take from the box containing his revolvers only a few days before he dropped dead on February 11, 1939. She has not been able to trace the gun, the registration number of which is 3682; number on the butt, 56290.

Woodsman, 6 1/4" bbl., serial 74709. Stolen from sporting goods store of J. J. Tobler, 507 32nd St., Union City, New Jersey.

#### CHALLENGES

The Douglas Rifle & Pistol Club of Douglas, Wyoming, would like small bore 50-foot indoor postal matches. Will fire any type of match, conditions to be specified by accepting teams. Write J. W. LeBar, Secretary, Box 580, Douglas, Wyoming.

# DOPE BAG . . .

Conducted by F. C. NESS

**Soft Point Versus Open Point** bullets is a moot subject for argument among deer hunters. In their Southern Region at least, the U. S. Forest Service prefers to have soft-point bullets used by hunter-guests in their National Forest areas. In the regulations governing the Pisgah hunt last fall was one which not only stipulated soft-point bullets, but prohibited the open-point variety. The reasons for adopting this rule are disclosed in a Forest Service letter, of December 2, 1939, to Mr. Edgar Buchanan of Maryville, Tenn. The letter follows:

"The standard hollow-point cartridge has been barred from Pisgah hunts for very definite reasons. It is true, of course, that this type of ball is as effective in killing game as the soft-nosed type. However, it also often disintegrates entirely within the body of an animal and does not penetrate the side opposite the point of impact even when little bone structure interferes with its passage. This has been observed repeatedly in carcasses that were brought in during the five previous hunts held on this area. On the other hand, the soft-nosed bullet has been found to have emerged from the opposite side of the body much more often than not, leaving a gaping wound that bled profusely.

"As a result of the general character of the wound caused by hollow-point ammunition, external loss of blood was confined to the amount that could exude from the wound left by the initial puncture before the shape of the bullet had been transfigured by impact. Such external loss of blood was, therefore, often so slight that a wounded animal could not be trailed successfully by blood spoor; and chance of its wandering off to die without being found by the hunter was greatly enhanced. This was first clearly indicated during the past five hunts by the numerous reports from guides and hunters that their quarry had been wounded as indicated by initial discovery of blood, but had subsequently left no trail that could be followed. Secondly, during post-season canvass of the Preserve for dead animals, most of those found to have been left in the woods had been shot with hollow-point ammunition.

"Of great importance from the standpoint of the hunters is also the fact that a great many animals that had been hit with hollow-point ammunition were so maimed internally in the region in which they were hit that the most was unfit for consumption without painstaking cleaning, and removing of all the metal shivers of the disintegrated ball. Where a hollow-point bullet had struck a twig before it reached its target, it generally happened that it disintegrated before it struck the animal, especially if it had been fired from a high-powered rifle.

"At present several types of expanding bullets are on the market that resemble somewhat the hollow-point, but which react as the soft-nose type. These are permissible, but in the higher powered arms, I feel that they would be too powerful for the white-tailed deer.

"In view of the fact that the soft-nose bullet has been found, generally, to leave a wound large enough to leave a distinct blood trail, and that the standard hollow-point has been found merely to cause internal hemorrhages in most cases which do not allow loss of blood outside the body, I feel certain you will agree with me that barring the latter from the Pisgah hunts is of benefit to both the hunter and the game."

—A. C. Shaw, Assistant Regional Forester.

In the instructions pertaining to the Sixth Pisgah Big Game Hunt, regulation No. 12 deals with armaments and reads:

"12. Firearms permitted shall be non-automatic rifles of a caliber .240-3000 or .25-35 or larger with the exception of .32-20. Also permitted shotguns 16 gauge or larger using single ball ammunition. This excludes the rifles of .25-20, .32-20, and calibers smaller than .25

regardless of shocking power. Ammunition will be restricted to soft-nosed or expanding point ammunition suitable for the rifles permitted. All hollow-point and all-metal ammunition will be excluded."

We wonder what our ammunition makers will have to say about this prohibition of sporting ammunition loaded with open-point bullets. The best summation we have heard of any bullet's effectiveness on any game is contained in these words, "Any bullet's killing power is directly proportional to the vital area which it displaces". Some bullets cut long tunnels through an animal while others penetrate a few inches and disintegrate completely. Those that make superficial wounds of insufficient penetration are excluded by this definition, because they displace no vital area. Therefore, providing any bullet displaces the required amount of vital area, it should make no difference in the final results whether it penetrates deeply or just enough, or whether it stops in pieces inside or remains intact and completely perforates the body of deer. By the same token, its classification as to variety of expanding bullet (soft-point or open-point) should have no bearing on its qualification as an adequate deer slayer.

As a matter of fact, there are many bullets of both varieties in the calibers allowed which behave in deer in a manner at variance with the characteristic behavior of the variety which they represent. This fact would make necessary a very flexible application of the restriction or the purpose of regulation No. 12 will be defeated. In this connection I want to point out the extreme difficulty of identifying any light-weight high-velocity bullet as to variety (soft-point or open-point) after it has been blown to bits, inside a deer.

For example, I do not see how a post-mortem on a deer carcass could distinguish an 87-grain open-point bullet fired in a .257 Roberts rifle from an 85-grain soft-point bullet fired in a .30-06, .30-40 Krag, .300 Savage or .300 Magnum. The 85-grain bullet could be employed by handloading the 87-grain Mauser pistol bullet in these .30-caliber cartridges to meet the requirements of the regulation. Sticking to factory ammunition, we have a parallel case in the .250 Savage, in which the 87-grain soft-point load would fulfil the letter of the rule and not its spirit, while the 100-grain open-point load in the same caliber would fully satisfy the purpose of the regulation but could not qualify under its present wording.

That is why I trust our good Forest Service Rangers will use sound judgment in applying the rule so that its enforcement will not be arbitrary in the case of those many special instances which, obviously, should be exempt.

**Swift Facts.** I have been greatly interested in the past on what has been written about two of our most modern cartridges—the .220 Swift and the .348 Winchester—and what various writers have had to say about both types, especially in relation to the .220 Swift as a big-game cartridge. In the recent issue of the *RIFLEMAN*, the article by Warren Leland was very informative and covered enough experience, at least on coyotes, to give a fellow an idea of just what this cartridge would deliver at various ranges on such game.

I perhaps shoot both of these guns more than anyone in the United States today, on predators, big game, and in exhibition shooting. The one party who is in a position to really give the facts of these guns, as well as all others, in the hands of the hunters, is the boy who very seldom hear from—"The Outfitter," and the common "Guides." The boys who each year see the hunters come up for the "big hunt," with everything in guns and ammunition that ever was designed. They see them come and see them go—

those who have been "lucky" and the others who returned disappointed.

This part of the game has been mine as long as I can remember. The hunter, his rifle and ammunition, his experience on the trail, has performed before me and my Canadian guides, year after year. We, under the circumstances, are able to get a pretty good idea of these things in due time and based on enough kills, to arrive at a pretty accurate conclusion of the things that are so much-debated. Our opinion is not based on the mere shooting of one or two head of big game. For instance, the past fall I have checked on 20 white-tail deer, six bull moose, three bobcats, and several black bear, all shot in our Canadian and Michigan camps, or those near by.

The .220 Swift rifle has caused more arguments in the big-game field than any other gun that has been in a hunter's hands. Glowing reports will be found in one issue of a sporting publication of its execution on all kinds of game. In the next, of its failure on the same species of game with the same bullet. Summed up, both articles would cover perhaps three or four heads of big game and the results noted in each individual case. Chances are—the Swift being of small caliber and not rated as a big-game rifle in the first place—many hunters and writers would not care to express an opinion of this gun, even if they had unusual success with it on big game. This is good policy and one that I believe in. On the other hand, much has been written about this rifle and the bullet effect of the ultra-high velocity. Therefore I have made it a point to watch this Swift perform in the hands of just an ordinary hunter—a "Guide" and a "Trapper."

I have just spent six weeks in the Ontario "bush" with him and other hunters where they gave this Swift a real trial on bull-moose, which in turn, I believe, is the largest antlered game in the world, a big order for any high-power rifle most of the time. Here you have it as I have just found it up there in the North:

To date—I have seen six big bull-moose shot with the Swift, with the Winchester 48-gr. bullet. Have been at the finish of over 50, and have shot many large heads myself with various cartridges. The cleanest "one-shot" kills I have ever seen were made with this Swift. Five of these bulls were shot at an average range of 100 yards. The very force of the break-up of the bullet, in passage, knocked them down as if hit by chain lightning. Only one ever got up that was hit low. He was promptly knocked down the second shot and stayed down. This was hard for me to believe as I am a firm believer in the large caliber and big bullet for such game.

Strange that under my observation, the Swift, instead of "blowing up" as expected (before reaching enough penetration), gave about twice as much penetration as we thought would be possible. It just seemed to "run that way," for there is no doubt in my mind but what other hunters have had this experience. However, there is no question in my mind that this rifle is a little out of the "Chipmunk" class and not to be taken too lightly in its ability to put the big fellows down and out.

With the 48-grain bullet of Winchester, white-tail deer just pile up "right now." I have shot, and seen so many big bucks killed, with this Swift that there is little room for argument here. It is about the best "one shot" killer I have ever had my hands on; that is made possible by fast flight and accuracy that makes it register hits at ranges far beyond the range or ability of the average shooter, unless scope sighted.

There is only one way to get the facts on anything in this line and it is by having the hunters send in their experiences. When they have covered, say, 100 head of game, we can get a pretty good idea of just what can be expected.—C. PARMELEE.

**February Handloads.** This month we have a miscellany of loads and associated dope. Before we forget, we should discuss an oft-repeated criticism of the new G. & H. factory cases made by Winchester for the 2-R .22-3000 Lovell. This has it that their body-length is too short and so this is responsible for separation of the case at the head. On the face of it, this is ridiculous in reference to a soft light case as plastic as this one has proven itself to be, and especially in view of the fact that the accepted practice with any rimmed caliber is to make the chamber body length (rim to shoulder cone) several thousandths longer than that of the maximum cartridge, or with as much as .010-inch clearance in the minimum chamber.

On the contrary, we find that several successive reloads will stretch the cases, and the necks will be elongated so much that trimming is required after the case has been fired a half-dozen times, or its mouth will project into the throat. This not only increases the pressure by restricting the bullet space, but the bullet seems to momentarily hold the case neck while the case is being expanded and thrust back, with the result that the head is torn off the case body. This happens with all 2-R and .22-3000 Lovell cases and not just with the G. & H. brand. In fact it has never happened yet with this make for us. A good standard for case length is 1.635 inches. Another cause of breaking cases is thin rims which, of course, would increase the head-space.

H. L. Kreis likes the M2 150-grain flat-base bullet in his .300 Magnum which has a 33-inch barrel. His load of 68 grains 4064 powder perforated 1/2-inch of steel at 500 yards, but failed at 550 yards. We have tried that same load in our own M-1917-Niedner-Bishop .300 Magnum and it is just so-so. Nothing to make one sneeze. The M1, 173-grain boat-tail bullet is more accurate in our Bull Gun. In fact, we seem to get more metal fouling in this Niedner barrel after washing the bore with that white identification stain with which the M2 bullet is decorated. Kreis also tried 73 grains of the new 4350 powder with the 150-grain bullet, which load seemed to develop lower pressure, and it also failed, at times, to perforate that same steel plate at 500 yards.

Herman J. Sebert loads the Ideal bullet No. 358439 ahead of 6.4 grains of Unique powder and the W.R.A. No. 108 primer in his .38 Special. He has fired a great many of these handloads, but realizes the load is not exactly a plaything and must be used in strong revolvers, such as the S. & W. .357 Magnum, the modern issue of S.A. Colt, the S. & W. Outdoorsman or the Colt Shooting Master. Some figures from laboratories place such 1100 f.-s. loads in the 20,000-pound class of pressures. Such loads also require new unfired cases or, at the very least, solid-head cases in good condition.

This load is a special one for heavy duty, outdoors. It is not as accurate as 3.1 grains Bulls-eye powder behind the same bullet or with the Ideal bullet No. 358311. With this load the latter bullet travels farther and ricochets more frequently or badly. With it Sebert ran slow-fire scores of 84 to 89 at 50 yards. With this load and the other bullet his 50-yard scores ran between 85 and 90. With Western Special Match ammunition his lone 50-yard score was 92. With the heavy load first mentioned Sebert fired into heavy timber. The result is shown in the accompanying cut. On such fired bullets as he has been able to recover from the earth or other substances he has found the lubricant intact in the bullet grooves.

L. W. Youngberg says it is impossible to produce his excellent bullets in quantities sufficient for sale. He has time and facilities to make a few, but only for special experimental purposes, and that will be all for some time to come. That is why he asked me to refrain from disclosing his address. This to anticipate and avoid much unnecessary correspondence and futile requests from hopeful would-be purchasers.

One of his many designs is a long pointed 136-grain bullet for the .270 Winchester made of the M2 150-grain Service bullet. This is

really too long in ogive for the standard 10-inch twist unless duplex-loads are used to give it stability through ultra-high velocity. In our 10-inch twist barrel on the M-70 Winchester we tried it with up to 51.5 grains of 4320 powder and with as much as 48.0 grains of HiVel No. 2. Neither load was as accurate as lighter loads behind this bullet.

We used R.A. No. 8 1/2 primers and seated this Youngberg bullet to a depth which left the cartridge-overall length at 3.475 inches. Our most accurate loads were 46.5 grains of HiVel No. 2 and 51.0 grains of No. 4320, both of which put 4 out of 5 shots in 1.60 inches at 100 yards. The 5-shot groups were 2.18, 2.92 and 3.07 inches. At 200 yards the two groups were 4.55 and 5.72 inches. Only the 4320 load was tried there. Our sight was a 330-Weaver post and a Stith mount. This beautifully shaped bullet would probably do its stuff in the Gipson .270 Magnum now made by Niedner. For this Magnum load and for 8-inch-twist barrels Youngberg makes a heavier and longer bullet on the same lines from the M1 173-grain Service bullet. This one weighs 165 grains.

Charles J. Beise tried our .30-'06 turkey load and found it too powerful. The first one, hit two inches in front of the tail at 80 yards, was cleanly dressed as well as de-tailed. That was an 8-pound hen. The second one was hit two inches above the same spot, and the partially-paralyzed bird ran fully 150 yards before a second shot killed it.

Depending upon the experience of Reverend Davis we had suggested the 220-grain bullet in the .30-'06, but Mr. Beise got the Super-Speed factory load and that was what he tried. He now believes the M1 Service bullet would be better, with a load of 20 grains of No. 80. This load would develop 1550 f.-s. The same charge would give the M2 Service bullet about 1650 f.-s. The maximum loads for these two bullets are, respectively, 22 and 23 grains of No. 80, with respective velocities of 1770 and 1940 f.-s.

The old popular small-game load for the .30-'06 was 18 grains of No. 80 behind the 150-grain Service bullet. The modern version is 20 grains of 1204 or 4227 powder behind either Service bullet. If the 220-grain bullet is used it should be given not over 2100 f.-s. for turkey shooting. That means, 41.0 grains of No. 4320 or No. 4064 powder. One of the best turkey loads is the original factory Hornet load which drove its .22-caliber 45-grain soft-point bullet at about 2350 f.-s.

Chauncey Edwin Phillips cautions about the use of HiVel powder with F.M.J. bullets which have their lead cores exposed to erosive combustion gases at their bases. Using the .303 Savage 190-grain bullet in the .30-'06 and Krag, good accuracy was obtained when bullets with protected bases were used. The F.M.J. bullet continued to group "splendidly" with the same charge of No. 17 1/2 powder, but not with HiVel. The same charge now made two distinctive patterns (split-groups) at 200 yards.

Mr. Phillips also suggests the use of the smokeless .32 S. & W. Long cartridge in .30-caliber rifles, even when the auxiliary chamber designed for the shorter .32 S. & W. is employed, be-

cause the longer revolver cartridge will give better accuracy. He reports 10-shot groups in less than 1 1/2 inches at 50 yards from 24-inch barrels of the Krag and Springfield. The 30-inch barrel (Krag rifle) would exhaust the bullet lubricant and become leaded about 6 inches from the muzzle to the detriment of accuracy.

Marshall F. Mathis sent in a Rolliellex shot of a mangled deer heart, to prove that the .30-'06 bullet we recommended several years ago is still as reliable in stopping White-tails in their tracks. The photo is too gruesome for publication, but the dope on the load is no secret. Its essence is the 145-grain Hollow-Copper-Point bullet, formerly made by U. S. C. Co. and now by Winchester. The load friend Mathis used last season was 49 grains of HiVel No. 2 and the R.A. No. 9 1/2 primer. The velocity developed by that load should be fully 3000 f.-s., but this bullet has proven itself to be a reliable stopper of Pennsylvania deer at any velocity between 2600 and 3100 f.-s.

**J. R. B. on His Pup.** I am glad to see the Bull Pup idea taking hold, because I wasn't just sure of my own sanity, at first, in perpetrating such a freak.

However, it seems that everybody is overlooking the fact that a Bull Pup stock, above all things, calls for a good comfortable grip. There is no part of the mechanism of the gun which should be allowed to interfere with the construction of the most comfortable pistol grip imaginable.

My original Bull Pup stock which you saw at Perry in 1937 likewise had no place to put the thumb, but that stock was made up in a hurry, just to try out the idea. A little later I made up another stock with a thumb hole through the wood, and that grip is just about the most satisfying and comfortable that I have ever used.

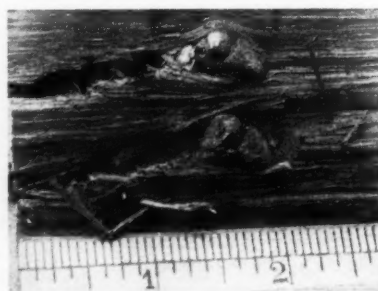
Another thing, the stock should be short enough so that when in the firing position the cheek will be on top of, or ahead of, the receiver ring; on account of recoil. One can get a nasty jolt if he neglects to watch this. Regarding the heat of the barrel against the face: This never bothered me much, in firing a twenty-shot match, but when the gun is fired alternately by several shooters with no chance to cool, as they did a few times at Perry, the heat becomes a problem, and some sort of pad should be provided, to prevent frying the shooter's face.—J. R. BUHMILLER.

**Drew On The Pup.** Since finishing this letter I received the December RIFLEMAN. I was reading Doering's article on the "Bull Pup". I wonder if some of these birds ever took a look at the safety end of such devices. The vital areas, base of skull, spine and throat area are exactly where maximum damage would be done should a poor case let go. No thank you, not for me! Also I think that this should be mentioned in the RIFLEMAN. What might happen to some poor bird in a "blow up", gives me a shudder. Rifles are pretty safe, but I want such chances ahead of my vital parts, not all mixed up with 'em.

The aesthetic side of such weapons might be developed but right now they are the ugliest things I ever clapped my peepers on. Ugh!—DAVID DREW.

**Scopes On Shotguns.** Seeing your last dope in RIFLEMAN on 'scope-sighted shot-guns, thought you'd be personally interested in our tryouts of Weaver's 1X scope here. I put one on an old model-12 pump fitted with a Poly choke, and used it at two turkey shoots, two different clubs. At one I got a turkey with 50 straight, the program being 25, skeet, and 25, traps, at 16 yards. I won the second one some weeks later with 49 x 50 at traps. I was second at the skeet shoot with 49 x 50, heavily dusting the lost bird. I mounted another scope on a Remington 121 rifle, using it for aerial shooting, and at Duv-Rock trap, with splendid results. I used the M-12 shotgun in South Carolina on a week's shoot at

### Sebert's Record of .38 Spl. Penetration





quail, dove and crows. On any shot, in fairly open ground, it was easy on quail. In thick brush, that calls for snap shots, it was harder to do, although I made several kills in such places. On doves, it is "murder" as you see them coming in, and it's no trouble whatever to put that center dot just where you want it in front of them. On crows it was likewise fine.

At skeet I have absolutely no trouble, and my score is actually better than without it, and if one is missed, you KNOW for a certainty just where the load went. I have mine adjusted to shoot about 4" high for center of the pattern, at 25 yards. That enables me to hold the big dot just underneath the target or bird. At traps one can blow targets consistently, and all seem to be hit alike, indicating they are centered well.

The gun it's on has a stock that doesn't fit by any sort of imagination—I purposely put it on that one. A stock doesn't have to fit to hit consistently with this sight.

I found the center dot must be large, covering about 6 inches at 25 yards, for quail and skeet shooting. It could be half that size for good results at traps, perhaps, as the target is a long way off and appears so much smaller in comparison with the dot than with skeet targets which are so much closer. So far I have shot about 300 skeet and 300 16-yard targets, and have broken 98%—plus on them all, not having yet missed a bird at No. 8 station, and believe it or not, you SEE them OK even at that station.

Munger, one of our steady skeet devotees, laughed pretty much at it when he saw it. Then he tried it a bit, broke 10 targets, borrowed it for a complete string, and broke the 25 straight. He hasn't missed yet. Thing surprises most everyone. Henceforth I shall use it at skeet and traps all the time. Got to rig one up on a regular trap gun as this pump is much too light for long strings with trap loads. Makes the shoulder sore. I say it's the thing for shotgun shooting.

You probably don't remember, but back in 1920-23 I used a peep sight on a trapgun all the time. One year I averaged 97.35% on 3,400 registered targets and about the same on some 5,000 unregistered birds that year. I used it on doubles too. This 'scope stunt is better than the peep sight was. Haven't had opportunity to shoot at doubles at 16 yards yet, but will do so next time, just to see how it works on that part of it.

It will be harder to mount it on a double or a single trap gun, but I've asked Weaver to dope out a mount to straddle the rib near the breech and it ought not to be in the way at all while opening and shutting the gun.

It worked so much easier than I had hoped, that I am enthusiastic, regardless of how fantastic it may sound to old-timers with the shotgun. And I rather feel I'm an old-timer with the shotgun myself, having shot it steadily for 23 years at traps. 1939 is the only year I didn't shoot much; only a few hundred at our state shoot. I'm going to take in the "Grand" maybe, in 1940, and use the 'scope there. It proves a very interesting novelty to shotgun addicts.—T. K. LEE.

**Fine Tripod.** One of the best prone-position tripods we have seen was sent in by The Thalhhammer Company, 1015 W. Second Street, Los Angeles, Calif. It is handsome and light but strong, sturdy and convenient in use. It has double-blade wooden legs like camera tripods, of which this is an adaptation, apparently. The bright, metal head comes off leaving a regular fixture or threaded bolt for the tripod socket of your camera. This bolt, plus a small stud, secures the tripod head.

The detachable head has a quick-lever and self-locking-handle control-arm similar to those used on standard tripods for motion-picture cameras. To this, a V-rest, with strap, for the spotting is adapted by the tube-and-socket method. The socket is split and has a thumb-screw clamp. With longer legs for the standing position-of-observation, or even in half-height for the seated position, it would make a fine dual-purpose tripod for the camera and spotting scope. The V-rest comes in two sizes.

The legs end in a clever hinged arrangement which provides flat feet of corrugated rubber for smooth surfaces such as range floors and shooting benches and also sharp curved metal points for outdoor use on the ground. Everyone who sees this tripod wants one, until he learns the price and reconsiders. The bad news is \$12.50. Perhaps the firm will sell the head separately to those of us who already own camera tripods. The extra V-rests cost \$2.50; the head much more.



*Pivot Jaw Fits All Tapered Jobs*

**Vise Aids.** The most-appreciated gadgets we use in connection with our big and powerful Fray-Mershon All-Angle Vise are the Mittermeier lead jaws and his pivoted auxiliary jaw which automatically fits itself to any tapered job held in the vise. We have brass jaw plates but do not take the trouble to remove and replace the four screws. It is much quicker to slip on the lead jaw-faces. We have wooden slip-on blocks, but these are knocked off too readily and they chip and crack too easily. The pivoted number is, of course, in a class by itself, and, as most gun parts are tapered, it is in demand nearly every time the vise is used. We are showing how well it adapts a vise jaw, to evenly fit tapered shotgun barrels, in the cut on this page. He has a swell new catalog.

**Wind Gadgets.** "Windikator" is what the General Communication Company of Boston call their little wind-velocity meter. We have played with it for some time and it seems to work well, but we have made no practical use of it on the rifle range.

There are times when you want to know the wind velocity a little closer than a rough estimate would give it, and then this gadget might be desirable. Those times are few, in our experience. It doesn't cost much or take much room in the kit. It can be conveniently carried in the pocket, but we never find it there when we want it.

The trouble is, you have to stop shooting, stand up, holding the thing about a foot from your eyes, and then turn until the wind squarely hits the little actuator which sways and so pushes the indicator around the dial. The latter is graduated in miles per hour, up to 30. If you do it before you start a string, the wind changes velocity, or direction, or both, and if you do it afterwards it is too late.

We have failed to give it a range test for much the same reason. When we had it along the wind wouldn't blow or we couldn't stop in the middle of a string when the wind came up, or we didn't have any time at all to bother with it.

To test it, we used an electric fan in my basement at home and found that it functioned O.K. So far, we have used three Windikators, and they seem to be uniformly made and uniform in performance. We have no means of determining how accurate they may be, but at least they are sensitive to winds of low velocity, say two- or three-mile winds, which we usually ignore.

Because there is a horizontal compass beneath the vertical wind-dial, you can get the direction at once, after you have turned to get the wind at right angle to the face of the actuating paddle. That is a good feature, because, if you know the direction of the line of fire, you can compute the cross-component and apply the wind rule. By the time you have it all figured out, the wind will probably change in both direction

and velocity, but at least you will know what it was at that certain previous moment. This might possibly be helpful at times.

The Windikator is well designed but somewhat delicate in construction. It is mounted in a non-rusting bakelite case with a screwed-on top-section to make it dust and damp proof much like a waterproof match safe, which it resembles. We haven't tried dropping it to see will it break, as some bakelite does, but we have lost a couple of small parts in carrying it around. I would have to classify it as a high-grade toy, having potential possibilities for practical use.

For range use, it seems to me that one of those little celluloid Rig-Wags, gotten out by Russ Wiles, would be more practical, because there it is, always out in front of your eye on the muzzle of your rifle. Your barrel shows the line of fire while you are shooting, regardless of magnetic direction, and your little Rig-Wag bends at right angles to that line, regardless of wind direction, and that gives you your cross-component automatically. By using it, you learn she bends so much for a half-inch bullet-displacement on your target, and that is what you want to know, really; not what velocity or angle of wind direction caused that right-angle (cross-component) bent or wag.

Now, if you are serious about getting all the additional facts on wind-velocity, it would be better to invest \$15.00 in one of those anemometers put out by M. C. Stewart, 432 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, Mass. Four wind cups horizontally mounted on a wind wheel turn a shaft which is so geared to an electric connection that 14 revolutions make but one contact to close the circuit and so flash a signal.

We have worked it with a spotlight on the car, by hooking it up with the car battery. However, it is much more convenient, and far better, to use dry cells. A couple of 1½-volt batteries will operate it, but four are better. You should not have less than 4 volts and never more than 8 volts.

We also found light signals inferior to a buzzer. Lights are not seen clearly in bright daylight, and they must be watched constantly or some count will be lost, whereas a sound will register on your ear while you use your eyes for aiming the rifle. The small telephone buzzer which friend Wilbur sent us has worked perfectly. We tacked it to the wooden box which holds our dry cells and the box acts as a sounding board.

This Type-B anemometer is in two parts. One is a brass tube which is driven into the ground in a vertical position to serve as a standard for the instrument and to ground it. The top of this tube is threaded to receive the top part, containing the mechanism, the electrical connections and the 4-cup wind wheel. A buzzer or flash signal is then cut in on one of the two lengths of bell wire, fastened to your batteries and to the two electrical outlets on the anemometer, and you are ready to go.

As the wheel turns, it turns a worm-gear which makes a connection or contact to close the circuit once in every 14 revolutions. It is calibrated to correspond in revolutions per minute to the actuating wind velocity in miles per hour. A correction table is supplied which gives correction factors for different brackets of wind speed whereby greater accuracy can be obtained, which, it is claimed, will be to within a mile per hour.

This outfit has been in our possession for two years, but we have made very little use of it. We usually pick calm days for our shooting, and we have registered winds as low as 3 miles per hour with it. It is guaranteed to withstand heavy winds up to 75 miles per hour. We can say that the outfit is working as well as originally, or better, and it has never had cleaning or oiling.

There is no provision for determining direction. We have suggested to the maker that he sell a buzzer or light signal as a part of the outfit, because we lost a year of possible use while finding and rigging a suitable signal. For a club or group of shooters who have any use

for an anemometer, we think this is the one to choose. It has been used by various outdoor departments of the U. S. Government for several years.

**Something Different.** I have been reading the Dope Bag in the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN for some time and with considerable interest and no little approval. In the November issue of the RIFLEMAN you mention something which called to mind some of my own experimental work, which work I think may be of interest to you.

Mention is made of the experiments of one L. Burnett. This man utilized graphite in an oil base to improve a badly rusted Krag rifle bore. This called to my mind a bullet lubricant which I have been using for the past two years with most excellent results. I pass it on to you for what it is worth.

Long ago I became displeased with the usual messy greasing of cast bullets, and in a moment of distress it occurred to me that celluloid might make a good bullet lubricant. Celluloid dissolves easily in acetone, giving a very thick viscous solution, the thickness of which can be varied at will by adding more or less acetone for a given amount of celluloid. Ordinary cast bullets of lead-and-tin alloy or lead-tin-antimony alloy, when coated with this material, and allowed to dry, were loaded into .30-'06 cases and fired. The accuracy was the same as with the same type of bullet and the same powder charge but with a grease lubricant. There was no evidence of metal fouling. I then tried adding a little colloidal graphite to the celluloid solution and applying it to the bullets. This was found to be fully as good as the plain celluloid as to accuracy, though I could not see many advantages, if any, over the plain celluloid. Clear lacquer can also be used to suspend the graphite if desired.

This particular method of lubrication of cast bullets seems to me to have some advantages over the old method of lubricating with a grease or wax. If for no other reason, it is less messy, and the bullets, once treated and loaded, have no tendency to pick up grit and dust as does a wax-lubricated bullet.

I will give here, very briefly, the method I use in applying the celluloid lubricant to the bullets. Celluloid is dissolved in sufficient acetone to give a solution that is fairly thick, yet one that pours easily. A bullet, held in a small pair of forceps, is then immersed in this solution, withdrawn, and set on a glass plate to dry. After a few minutes, the bullet is moved slightly on the plate to remove the accumulation of celluloid near the base. It is then allowed to dry. This takes about thirty minutes in a warm room. The bullets can now be loaded into the cases.

The particular load or loads which I have been using are with the 169-grain Ideal bullet No. 311413 with gas check. The powder charges are 16 and 21 grains of Hercules No. 2400, respectively. I have the measured velocity for each of these as well as the accuracy in an Enfield rifle, but for the sake of saving space I will not include the data in this letter.

One other item which may be of interest to shooters who reload: Pure zinc metal makes very good light-weight bullets for use at high velocity. I have used these for some time and have found them very satisfactory. The zinc has a somewhat higher melting point than the common lead-tin alloys. However, it can be cast easily in an ordinary bullet mold. Due to the lower density of zinc, as compared to lead, bullets cast in the Ideal mold No. 311413 weigh about 110 grains instead of 169 grains. This without the gas check.

Zinc bullets require no gas check, it is not necessary to lubricate them, and they can be fired at very high velocities, up to 3500 feet per second in the .30-'06. At these velocities there is no indication of the bullet's stripping on the lands of the gun. They are very accurate, and, if made with a lead core, are quite good as expanding bullets. The lead core can of course be introduced in the bullet by the proper use of a hollow-point attachment on the mold.

Should sufficient people be interested I would be glad to prepare a short note on the above-mentioned work. I am equipped with a chronograph for determining bullet velocities, and I hope before long to have the equipment necessary for determining pressures developed in trial firings.—DR. GEORGE S. PARSONS.

**Frank Pachmayr's Custom Gun Works** was among the first, if not the first, firm to thoroughly overhaul and reconstruct the .45 Service pistol for the purpose of improving its accuracy. In order to do the job properly, they first had to construct a machine rest, and this they did. After some study and preparation a very elaborate and massive one, weighing 300 pounds, was built. This was so designed that the gun is free to recoil, slide and rock upward as it is when fired offhand. However, in this rest it was fired without human touch, by means of an "antennae release".

The Pachmayr work on the .45 pistol is a complete overhauling including the refitting of all parts after building them up to permit closer fitting. Their objective is to have every moving part operate uniformly from shot to shot, string to string, match to match, season to season and year to year, and the result is to have every moving part always return to its identical position.

Many of the matches, local, regional and national, have been and are being won with pistols rebuilt by Pachmayr's Custom Gun Works. Lee Echols, of the high-scoring Treasury Department pistol team, wrote last August that his team felt that Pachmayr's accuracy job on its pistols was responsible for the records it established last year. Later, at Camp Perry, Lee Echols scored 273 in the National Pistol Team Match, and the (his) U. S. Treasury team tied the second-place score, with a total of 1306 points, in the same match.

William H. Lux, pistol instructor for the Indian Hill Rangers, at Madeira, Ohio, made a before-and-after test in the machine rest which he described in the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN some months ago. Five 10-shot groups ranged from 7 to 10 inches, with an average of 8 inches, before he sent the .45 pistol to Pachmayr. Upon its return he fired a 10-shot group with reloads which measured 5 inches. He also tried two 10-shot groups with Peters Police Match, which ran 2 7/8 inches and 3 1/4 inches for a 3-inch average.

When he wrote this on August 23, last, he also said his average over the National Match Course with the .45 pistol jumped from 250 before to 268 after the gun came back from Pachmayr. The published bulletins show that, later, at Camp Perry he scored 260 for the first bronze medal in the National Individual Pistol Match, and 262 in the N. R. A. .45 caliber Civilian Pistol Match.

**Page Buck Rogers.** In the front part of October, last fall, W. C. Redfield sent us a sample of the new "Buck Rogers" Redfield tube front sight. At first glance, we thought it was a Warner & Swasey musket sight and dug out a musket for trying it. It was designed to attract attention and to be readily identified. It met both qualifications in full. It was flared-out outside, toward the eye, and overbored inside, in front, toward the target. This effectively lessens the likelihood of obtaining an oval aperture-field, as the eye usually does when a muzzle tube is out of alignment with the sight line. Usually it is aligned with the bore, instead.

The new tube was bigger and it took bigger aperture discs. The inserts which came with it were .70-inch across, whereas the old standard Redfield discs were .55-inch. It was a good sight with a clamp base for a muzzle scope-block, but we have heard nothing further of "Buck Rogers" since.

Another Buck Rogers influence was obtained from a photo of a carving set designed by The Knifecrafters. Giles P. Wetherill explained the next-century features of his design, by letting me know a friend had ordered the custom-built

set to harmonize with the modernistic architecture of a dining room in his then-new dwelling.

The latest Knifecrafters samples in my desk drawer are three new antler-hafted (curved) hunting and skinning knives. One is of standard proportions, but the other two are examples of maximum blade with small handle and minimum blade with large handle, respectively. The curved hafts are very comfortable in one position, but inferior to straight handles when the knife is turned for different use.

Wetherill has a lot of fun with his knife designing hobby. Special designs for government field workers include root cutters on trowel-like tubular blades and one with about every usable gadget incorporated including a small flashlight in the handle. On his last visit he showed me a design for an absent-minded professor with a long dragging-thong and a counter-balanced sled-bottom on the blade-back for sliding it safely along jungle trails.

**Duplex Loading.** Since the first announcement of the "Duplex" loads by Elmer Keith, there have been all kinds of ideas regarding these loads.

To understand duplex loading, one must first understand the normal burning of smokeless rifle powder in a rifle barrel. Most of my readers do understand this, but for those who do not, I will offer an example: Take the .30-'06 cartridge of twenty years ago, loaded with pyro. The primer starts each kernel of powder burning at the same time. By the time the bullet has traveled one inch up the barrel the pressure has mounted to 50,000 lbs. per sq. inch. The higher the pressure the higher the temperature, and the faster the powder burns, also lowering the pressure lowers the temperature and slows up the burning of the powder. From now on the bullet moves forward so fast that the burning powder cannot maintain the pressure, and by the time the bullet has moved six inches the pressures have dropped to 28,000 lbs. As pressures drop the remaining powder burns slower and slower, and pressures drop faster and faster. At ten inches of bullet travel pressures are 20,000 lbs., or less, and at eighteen inches they are under 10,000 lbs. (Pressure figures are not exact, and only given to illustrate the point.)

Now suppose this same cartridge was loaded with a modern progressive powder like DuPont I.M.R. No. 4064. Each kernel of powder is coated with a slower burning powder on the outside while the inside of each kernel is composed of a faster burning powder.

Because only the slow powder is exposed and burns when the pressures are the highest, we can put more of this powder in the load and still keep pressures at 50,000 lbs. per sq. inch. When this load burns in a rifle barrel pressures reach the top in about one inch of bullet travel, but as the bullet moves forward and pressures begin to drop the slow powder burns off each kernel and exposes the faster burning powder, which keeps the pressures at a higher level, so that at the six inch point pressures are 33,000 instead of 28,000 lbs. as with pyro powder. Likewise pressures are higher all the way to the muzzle, and we give the bullet a higher velocity.

Because of the controlled burning of modern progressive powders we have been able to burn more powder behind the bullet at no increase in pressure. In a way this is a duplex load, or a duplex powder—duplex meaning two, it really is two powders in one.

Now for duplex loading. We will say that we are using a cartridge where 50 grains of powder will give us a breech pressure of 45,000 lbs. per sq. inch. When this cartridge is fired and the bullet has traveled six inches up the barrel, pressures will then be around 30,000 lbs. Now IF (and notice that big "if") we could add an additional charge of ten grains of a faster burning powder—one made to burn normally at a maximum pressure of from 20,000 to 30,000 lbs. per sq. inch, we could maintain that 30,000 lbs. pressure for several more inches of bullet travel, and the remaining pressures would be much higher all the way to the muzzle.

Such a load would give greatly increased velocities, as we have burned 60 grains of modern powder behind that bullet where normally we have been burning only 50 grains, and at a maximum pressure of 45,000 lbs.

This is exactly the same principle as modern progressive smokeless powders—only carried out to the nth degree, and as with progressive powders, muzzle (or exhaust) pressure would be higher, report louder, recoil greater.

Now my advice is don't go trying this! If both charges should fire at the same time—pressures would go high enough to damage both the rifle and the shooter. If the second charge is not fired soon enough it will do little good.

I do not know any more about Elmer Keith's "Duplex" loads than you do, but I am convinced that he does not use any mixed powders. He may, and likely does, use two different powders, but I am willing to believe that he does not fire the second charge until the bullet is several inches up the barrel. Both charges, of course, have to be in the cartridge when loaded. How he does this is his secret, and I for one am willing to let it remain his secret until he is ready to tell us about it.

Until more is known about "Duplex" loads I will use straight DuPont L.M.R. powder in my maximum loads. And I strongly advise the rest of you to do the same—BYRON E. COTTRELL.

**Blinders and Segments**, cemented on shooting glasses, proved so interesting when we tried them, that I asked Mr. Belz for some further dope on his experiences with such tricks in the field of optical accessories. Barr had a blinder put in his left lens to fool his master left eye for shotgun shooting and I had an auxiliary segment put in the right lens of my Belz shooting glasses for pistol work. We were glad to find that neither of these interfered with our regular use of the glasses in rifle shooting. The Belz paper follows in full.

"First, segments are added to shooting glasses for those shooters who have difficulty with blurry, hazy sights in pistol and rifle shooting. In the optical profession we call this condition Presbyopia which means that one's eyes do not accommodate well at near points and at short distances. Between the ages of forty and fifty the shooter may have perfect distant vision and at this stage of life he will commence to have a slight haze on his sights and this condition is rectified by a correction—the amount of focal strength necessary to bring out his sights with sharpness and definition and this correction causes a slight haze on the target. At this point in life it is not possible to prescribe a lens that will give you sharpness and definition on both your sights and target, but the slight haze on your target is in no way detrimental and the sharpness and clarity of your sights is more important. Shooters who suffer from this condition will be surprised to see how much their accuracy in shooting will improve. The segment must be marked and set according to their shooting stance and position in order to attain the best results. Precision and accuracy in this work is paramount as that is the only way the shooters' vision will be aided and his shooting improved.

"Second, another condition which is prevalent among shooters in field, trap and in skeet shooting are cases where the shooters' master eye is the opposite eye from the shoulder from which he shoots. For illustration: Shooting from the right shoulder, sighting your gun with the right eye and having your left eye open. Your left eye being your master eye will tend to point your gun in the angle of vision of your left eye which causes you to cross fire and thus throw off the accuracy of your shooting. We know that it is more advantageous to shoot with both eyes open as it gives you greater depth perception and greater accuracy in placing your lead in game and moving targets in field. In glasses for those who have the opposite master eye from the shoulder they shoot from, we frost the lens of that master eye so that they can follow the flight of their target and game with both eyes open and with no interference



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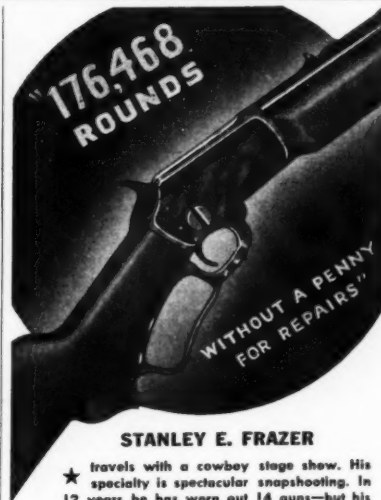
WALTER F. ROPER

458 Bridge Street Springfield, Mass.

and when they line up their target or game with the eye in line with the shoulder they shoot from, the frosting automatically obstructs the vision of the master eye thus eliminating cross firing.

"In all my years of fitting shooting glasses, one of the most interesting cases was one in which the shooter shot from his right shoulder sighting his gun with his left eye. He could not close his right eye and his right eye was his master eye. Naturally, he had an offset stock in his gun to enable him to set his left eye low enough to look over the sights of his shotgun, but he could not close his right eye and in his bird shooting, he would either shoot ahead or behind his birds depending on the angle they were flying at, and occasionally he hit his straightaway shots. He was recommended to me to see if I could assist his shooting. After careful observations with a shot gun sighted at all different angles, I planned to frost the nasal portion of the right lens and this automatically shut out the vision of the right eye when he had his game sighted over the barrel of his left eye and he developed into quite an excellent field shooter having no more difficulty with cross firing and the frosting never interfered with his walking or other activities. Now this man was approximately fifty-five years old and he had been advised to shoot from his left shoulder but he was too set in his stance and even if he did shoot from his left shoulder he would still have had difficulty in cross firing as his right eye was his master eye, but his left eye had the sharpest, clearer vision so that was the reason why the shooter favored his left eye while shooting from his right shoulder.

"I have many other interesting cases in our file but the above cited case was the trickiest. The reason I went in to great lengthy detail on these cases and the methods of fitting same is that there are thousands of shooters who do not know that rectifications can be made when they suffer from different problems in shooting



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which are caused by errors of refraction and not having proper control of their master eye." —W. H. BELZ.

**Modern Rifle.** The special scope job which we forecast a few issues back has come in on a .22 Varminter bull-gun. It is a big and long



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Bishop stocks now fitted with molded tenite forend cap, pistol grip cap and butt plate, with length of pull cut to customer's requirements; no advance in price. Same high quality Ozark growth American Walnut, noted for fine texture and color. For all standard actions. Standard inletting; semi-finished. Price \$5.00. Send postage for 4 pounds.

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scopic effect and accuracy. Com-  
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screws. It was engineered by Cliff Bogle of Maryville, Tenn., who sent it in.

The excellent beaver-tail stock of dense walnut has its cheek-piece on the right side, because the outfit is designed for a southpaw on a Sedgley left-hand Springfield action.

The big scope is very low, or not over 1 1/2 inches above the bore, axis to axis.

## TRADE DOPE

**Announcement.** Because of uncertain health Mr. J. R. Adriance of Owego, New York, has just written that he is discontinuing all custom

gun business until further notice. He is maintaining his shop purely for experimental purposes and does not feel able to accept any outside work until he has recovered his health.

**J. V. Falcon**, who we knew as an alert and deeply interested sporting goods buyer for Montgomery Ward, has joined up with the Drybak Corporation, of Binghamton, New York. Joe is still the wide-awake merchandiser of the past few years, and that may portend you will be wearing a Drybak shooting coat before long, at Skeet or on the rifle range.

**Joseph Plasil, Jr.**, of Watertown, Wisconsin, has a quick loader for all single-shot arms, designed to be worn by the shooter in the form of a glorified clip magazine with a hinged contraption for pushing the top carriage into the chamber. It may work well, but it seems cumbersome. Should save ammunition pockets, some weighting and also fingers some numbing in cold weather.

**Johnson Bros.**, of Eureka, Calif., make tool-steel rifle barrels, for longer wear under the strain of modern loads. These "Falcon" barrel blanks are finished and fitted or semi-finished. They also do rebaring and special gunsmithing, shortening bolt-actions, fitting side-safeties and set-triggers, converting military rifles to sporters, etc.

**R. Noske**, the well-known scope maker of San Carlos, also makes chronometers, hall clocks, scientific instruments and other things. Now, he says, he is going to make dealer items and, henceforth, will do no gunsmith-fitting of mounts, etc., but will leave that to others. He will concentrate on stock scopes and items for the trade and let others worry about adapting and fitting them.

His latest item is Noske's "Peep Eye," a small, rear-sight, peep scope of lucite with a wide field, intended for hunting and especially to aid old eyes see front sights more clearly for quicker and more accurate aim in the game field. It is made to fit standard peep-sights' threaded apertures, in one model. Another model is larger and is supplied with two types of holders, neither of which came with our sample. It is just as well, so, because it does not suit our eyes well enough to be helpful. It is small, neat, very well made and inexpensive. It will probably appeal to many hunters who may need eye aid.

**Westchester Trading Post** is out with their No. 8 catalog, in their 8th year, which Bill Trull is commemorating by an editorial message and an introduction of his staff in the beginning of the book. It is bigger, indicating growth, as it should, with Bill continually on the alert for new items and designing, himself, what he can't find.

We are reminded of several things we saw at Bill's booth in Camp Perry. The timer in the loading block, the long-visored caps, the attractively light and comfortable shooting coat of safari cloth, the new kit boxes and pistol kits, all of which went well at the big meet. We bought six sheepskin revolver holsters, at a dollar a throw, the moment we saw them. We mentioned the good Westchester sling cuff in an earlier issue, after Perry. The new catalog has such things as staplers, Watson sights, crow calls, medals, Mirakel binoculars, Starrett micrometers, curved pasters, sling-tension equalizers, sling-pads, screw drivers in sets and the new Argus Spotscope.

**Jesse E. Harpe**, competent gunsmith of Tampa, Florida, specializes on handguns and has a handy, pistol score-book, of full-length and handy pocket-width, which he sells at "two-bits." He sells accessories, does general gunsmithing and rebluing, but he is known best for his fine work on revolvers and pistols. His com-

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plete accuracy job on the .45 pistol was ten bucks when I saw him at Camp Perry. His trigger work on both types of handguns is also worthy of investigation.

**Gun Stocks By Bishop** is the title of an 8-page catalog that should be obtained by anyone interested in restocking any bolt-action or single-shot rifle or shotgun, or in remodeling the M-1917 rifle. We are especially sold on the design of the Bishop Target stocks fitted, like twins, to our two bull guns in .22 rim fire and .300 Magnum calibers. The new Bull Pup Bishop stocks are not shown. After getting our semi-finished, ready-inletted Bishop stocks we paid a gunsmith seven dollars for finishing the inletting and polishing the surface and the Tenite trimming. After that we still had some little work left, to finish the exterior and to refine the bedding of both.

**Litschert**, the convertor-upper of sighting scopes, says his work is practically "custom" and not "stock," requiring ironing out details with the customer, sometimes, and always waiting for the customer's scope before work can begin. This limits production-preparedness and delays the start, so that some time is necessary for completing a job. He now has in the works some new literature for 1940 and some new models including 1 1/4-inch varmint scopes of 4X, 6X, 8X and 10X, and also 1 1/4-inch target scopes of 20X and 25X. These latter have Bausch and Lomb achromatic lenses. The smaller ones are of other makes, probably Wollensak.

**H. S. Newcomb**, the man who sells aluminum portable bench rests, in Vineland, N. J., has a new, metal grip-adaptor for revolvers with an adjustable finger stop, for D.A. shooting. This looks good for slow fire too.

**Nicholas P. Sullivan** of Portland, Oregon, has a handy, quick cold-bluing outfit, which friend C. A. Francis has tried out for us on shotguns, rifles and actions. It does a beautiful job, but is good only temporarily, as it rubs off too easily. Might be O.K. for touching up spots by owners, but not for commercial work.

**Hudson Sporting Goods Co.** has sent in their new list of ammunition bargains, covering their No. 52 sale. It contains more than 120 items on 3 long mimeographed sheets. The least quantity listed for any one item is 200, and the greatest, 74,000. In addition, there are listed more than a dozen miscellaneous shooting accessories and gun parts.

**Al Neu** of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, has an adjustable cheek rest, which we have seen. The supporting bolt passes through the buttstock, from top to bottom, making it adjustable for height. It is neatly made of brass. The cheek rest is well shaped and insulated in a harmonizing color. Fine idea to suit the sight line height perfectly, but some might object to boring through stock and to the projection of bolt and lock beneath the stock.

**W. E. Spangle** of Fair Oaks, Calif., has a primer catcher for Pacific reloading tools, at \$1.75, which is sold on ten days' trial. It is also sold by Pacific Gun Sight Company in connection with their tools. It fits all calibers.

**Sportsman's Scientific Service** has a new item among their line of ballistic charts. This one is called "Geist's Ballistics Coefficient Finder Chart." Now, I wish Harry F. Geist could and will send me a time-finder so I could use the other time-saver. Maybe some day; but no time to play now.

FEBRUARY, 1940

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**C. L. Elmer**, who is "Pop" to his friends, is at 302 N. Chadbourne, St. Angelo, Texas, where he is doing gunsmithing, machine work, and experimental work. That is what he told us at Camp Perry where we tried his .40 Special handloads and converted S.A. Colt. He specializes in revolver work, but does rifle work along the same featured line, which is barrel-fitting and caliber-conversion. Revolvers are altered to .25 rim fire, .25 Special, .40 Special, etc. Loads, cases and reloads can be had on request. Write him for quotations.

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This section provides a quick, inexpensive means for disposing of guns and accessories no longer needed, or for the purchase of more suitable similar items. We urgently request that a full description be given of every article offered, and its condition (see complete instructions above), for transactions of this sort must be based entirely on good faith and mutual satisfaction. Deliberate misrepresentation will of course result in immediate expulsion from N. R. A. membership. Purchasers who wish to examine, before acceptance, guns or equipment purchased thru these advertisements should request shipment by express, C.O.D., with examination privileges.

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REMINGTON Gamemaster, .35 cal., excellent, \$28.00. WANT—Type EE, 6X30, B&L Binoculars. Fred Herrick, Seeley Lake, Montana. **2-40**

35 WINCHESTER, box magazine, lever action, good, \$20.00. Winchester pump hammerless, 16, Model 12, 28" choke, good, \$20.00. Jesse Jordan, Lyons Falls, N. Y. **2-40**

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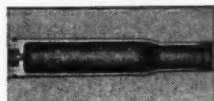
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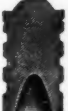


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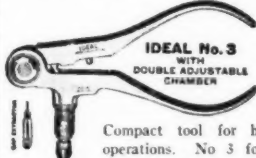


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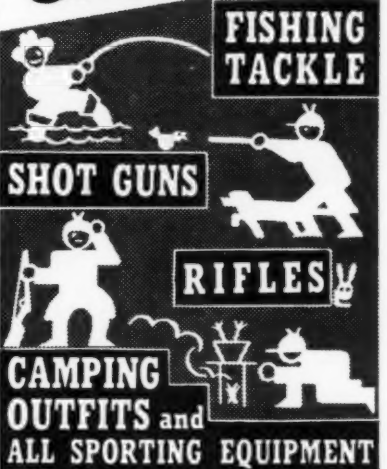
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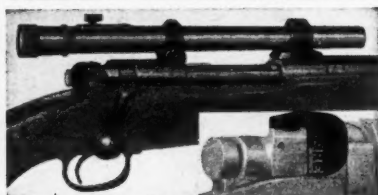
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M54 WINCHESTER 270 excellent in, very good out. Complete with excellent B&M Marksman Scope 2 1/2 X. Low bridge mount, post dust caps. \$65.00 cash. Lightning model Browning Overunder solid matted rib Miller selective single trigger 28" mod. and imp. cyl. Very nice stock standard dimensions excellent condition. \$65.00 cash. L. R. Fleming, 1072 Market St., Sunbury, Pa. 2-40

MUZZLELOADING REVOLVERS. Colt and Remington 44 and 36 calibre revolvers in fine shooting order, also moulds. Stamp for list. Kimball Arms Company, Box 257, Woburn, Mass. 2-40

M52 WINCHESTER Standard Barrel, excellent, Lyman-Goss rear, Vaver front, Fecker 8X Scope, inside excellent, outside good, Sheepskin case & Mossberg Scope Stand, all for \$75.00. International Correspondence School Show card writing course, \$10.00. W. B. Copenhaver, Radford, Va. 2-40

BOLEX I6-mm. Movie Camera. Hugo Meyer (Primoplan) one inch F1.5, Hugo Meyer (triplan) two inch F2.8. Yellow Filter for each lens. Extra view finder. Leitz range finder. Handy case for daily use. Large case for special work, compartments for film, lenses, etc. 700 feet Agfa Plenachrome. Perfect, never used. \$350.00. C. W. Thias, 1414 Grand Ave., Davenport, Iowa. 2-40

H&R ULTRA Sportsman with Hardy holster, excellent, \$23.00 cash. Very good \$35.00 French Binoculars, 8X, \$17.50, or trade for excellent Krag No. 2 Autographic Brownie with leather case, \$6.00, or Krag. N. A. Brown, Milton, Oregon. 2-40

PERCUSSION, full maple, patch box, shootable. \$12.50. Lyman 57 or W70, \$4.50. Pure Maple Syrup, \$2.00 gal. H. K. Hilner, Meyersdale, Pa. 2-40

NEED CASH! .22 Officers' Model, 6", excellent out, perfect inside, Pachmayr, \$26.50. .45 Colt Commercial late automatic, excellent, perfect inside, extra barrel, holster, nine magazines, etc., \$23.75. Woodsman, 4 1/2", factory condition, sacrifice, \$23.75. S. M. Abernethy, 5413 Bartlett Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. 2-40

COLT Detective Special, excellent inside, good outside, \$20.00. Colt Army Special 38 calibre six inch barrel, excellent inside, good outside, \$20.00. Pacific reloading tool, Ideal powder measure and 500 38 Special cases, \$25.00. Cash only. Bert Pelissier, Devils Lake, North Dakota. 2-40

WINCHESTER 20 Pump, good with 26" Poly Choke Rib Barrel excellent, \$42.00. Winchester 63 Automatic very good, Bead front, folding center, 2A combination rear with disc, all Lyman, \$32.00. C. F. Young, 823 West York, Enid, Oklahoma. 2-40

STEVENS Model 52 Heavy S. S. Rebored .32 Stevens Ideal. 44 1/2 engraved action. D.S. trigger, loop lever. P.G. Schutzen stock with cheek piece. Scope blocks, no sights. Very good. \$30.00. Winchester Hi-Side S.S. 22-3000 Lovell. Johnson re-lined, P.G. stock, Drawbolt, tapped for Lyman blocks. Sizing die, bullet seater, some cases. Perfect in, good out. \$35.00. Fred Wheat, Dansville, N. Y. 2-40

22-3000 LOVELL, on H.W. Winchester action; barrel and action excellent. Stock good. \$27.00. W. B. Miller, 1432 N. E. Liberty, Portland, Oregon. 2-40

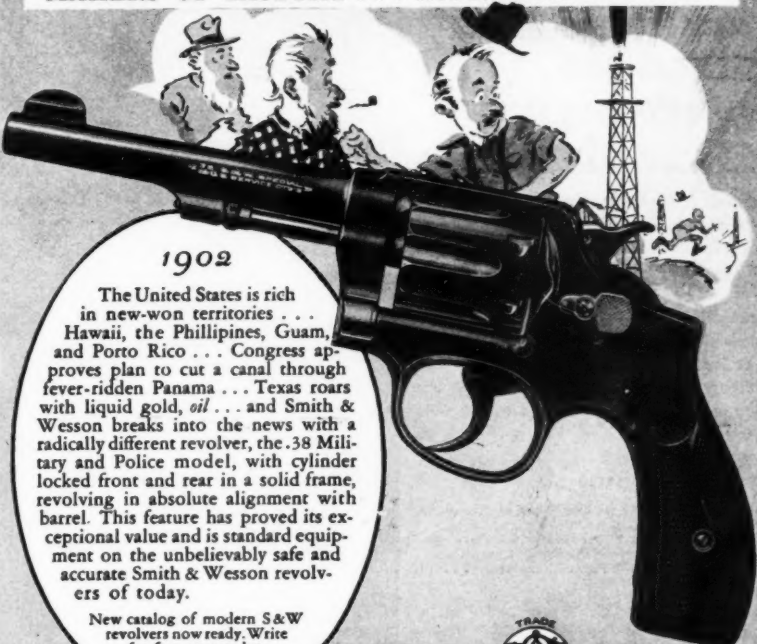
STOEGER .22 Free Pistol No. 765, single set trigger, outside very good, inside excellent, \$15.00. Charles Wendel, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. 2-40

NOSKE A 2 1/2 X, perfect, \$35.00; 15X Super Targetspot, perfect, \$55.00; W54, 220, Exc., \$35.00; Enfield Sporter, \$25.00; 560, 32 Rem. M.C. Smokeless, make offer. Julius Nelson, Frost, Minn. 2-40

HEAVY Half Octagon Remington-Hepburn Hornet, blocks only, Addicks relined, perfect in, original outside good. Also Fecker 8X, 3 1/2", tube marked by mounts, otherwise excellent, both \$45.00. Badger big Kit and Freeland stand attached, 2 extensions, \$7.50. Rifleites (Camp Perry) lenses excellent, \$3.50. EE Glasses, no compass, good, \$15.00. Arzus slide projector, excellent, \$8.50. WANTED-S&W 38 Revolver. J. R. Childs, Jr., 1965 Ponce de Leon, Atlanta, Ga. 2-40

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Swept National Matches. Custom made for YOU. Request folder & patterns. Name gun. \$5.00. LEW SANDERSON, 14887 Muirland, Detroit, Mich.

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ENFIELD Sporter, Pacific rear sight, French walnut stock, excellent, \$25.00. Savage 25-20 Model 23B, very good, \$10.00. Wollensak 20X scope, like new, \$8.50. Frederick Mosbach, 61 Glen Street, Brooklyn, New York. 2-40

M52 SPEEDLOCK, N.R.A. stock, excellent inside, good outside, Ranger 4X scope, also aperture front, folding rear, sling, \$35.00 M.O. Bert Dutcher, Morris, Minnesota. 2-40

WINCHESTER 54 Sedgley Case Hardened Bolt .218 Bee, scope blocks, sling, excellent, Ideal resizer, \$37.50. Savage 25-35 99, scope blocks, good, \$12.00. Colt Officers' Model .38 Special 7 1/2", very good, 225 loaded shells, 500 primers, \$30.00. Bond C tool 38 Special, 45 Automatic, 45 Long, \$10.00. WANTED-.57. R. E. Tolan, 4160 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Indiana. 2-40

**AN OPEN LETTER**  
Detroit, Michigan  
August 21, 1939

Frank Pachmayr,  
1220 S. Grand Avenue,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Frank:—

Since leaving Los Angeles we have had such marked success with our 45's which you worked over that we feel you should be apprised of some of our scores.

At Chicago on August 6, Melton Rogers set a new National Record over the Police Course with a score of 295. It might be stated that the previous record was broken by all five members of the Treasury Team at Buffalo the following week end.

At Cincinnati we set a new National Record over the National Match Course (Five man teams) with a score of 1380, eight points over the previous record and an average of 276 per man.

At Pontiac, shooting against 15 of the top ranking 45 teams in the United States, including the Marines, Coast Guard, Infantry, Cavalry and Detroit Police, we placed first in the five man team match with a score of 1367.

We feel that your accuracy job has made the difference between fair 45 shooters and good ones out of us.

Best of luck to you from the Treasury Department Pistol Team

*Lee E. Echols*  
Lee E. Echols.



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AND BELTS**

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EL PASO, TEXAS  
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COLT .38 Army Spl. 6", reblued, excellent. \$21.00. SA Frontier, 6", 44 Spl., new cylinder. Balance needs bluing, \$14.00. Dr. C. G. D'Oench, 709 University Club Bldg., St. Louis, Mo. 2-40

8mm. LEBEL, excellent in, cartridges, \$10.00. 1917 Remington, excellent in, stock cut to sporter, \$15.00. 6mm. U. S. Winchester, good, 180 Stayless cartridges, \$25.00. 45 Colt Auto, arched housing, \$15.00. J. Temple, 1409 Chalmers, Detroit, Mich. 2-40

**FOR SALE—Production Equipment and Material for Noske Scope Mounts.** A very good business opportunity for a live gunsmith or dealer, as Noske mounts are established and proven in practical design and durability. We are discontinuing manufacture and attaching of mounts at factory because this work is not adapted for combination with our main business, which is production of optical instruments. Will sell entire mount business for reasonable price. R. Noske, San Carlos, California. 2-40

COLT Dragons; Flat Top Frontiers; Flat Top Bisleys; Wells Fargo; 22 Officers; Target Model Revolving Rifle; other Colts. S. & W. small framed 7 shot .22 cal. swingout in 3 models. Engraved and pearl Russian, and Russian Target Model, Original 2 in. Bicycle Model. Many others. Prewar 6 1/2 in. .38 Targets. 3 barrel Krieghoff; Ithaca Magnum; Doubles in 10 to 20 ga. 30-06 Sauer Mauser. Superb pair of dated and signed large Flint Pistols, 207 years old. Civil war carbines. Need cash, but will trade. 40 power Vion Spotting scope. Light weight Goetz Binoculars. All bargains. List for stamps. Warren Baker, 5106 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 2-40

SUPER Targetspot, 15X, \$60.00. 5A Lyman, \$25.00. 48 Lyman, \$7.50. 54 Custom Hornet, \$60.00. 410 Winchester Pump, \$25.00. .32 Colt Automatic, \$12.00. Custom Springfield Sporter, \$75.00. Fecker Mount, \$15.00. Trapshooters Rifleite, \$8.00. All excellent to perfect, inspection permitted. G. H. Holliday, Life Member, Antioch, California. 2-40

PARKER C.H.E. (see ad November issue, page 54. \$100.00. Parker D.H.E. Skeet 410, 26 inch, straight grip stock 2 1/4 x 1-9/16 x 14 1/4, hand carved Oak Leaf Design BT fore-arm, excellent, \$150.00. Grade A Lelever Skeet 410, Imp. Cyl. 26 inch, ST, BT Fore-arm, ejectors, perfect, \$50.00. High Grade Pre-War Lelever 20 gauge, 20 inch true Cyl. ejectors, VG, \$35.00. Marlin 39 Tang Peep, sling swivels, VG, \$17.50. Model 25K Remington 25-20, sling swivels, excellent, \$15.00. Fancy 53 Winchester 25-20, new Lyman 56 & 31 sights, swivels, VG to Ex., \$27.50. WANT—Ithaca Feather 20 Pump 26 Imp. Cyl. or DHE Parker 20 or 28. P. R. Lilly, Valdosta, Ga. 2-40

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BROWNING Overunder Trap Grade, ventilated, single trigger, straight grip, white line pad, perfect, \$65.00. Lyman Super Target 15X, Lee center dot, perfect, \$55.00. George M. Spahr, Frankfort, Indiana. 2-40

.30-06 TARGET MODEL 70 Winchester, 77 front, 48 rear. Excellent in, very good out, \$80.00. No trades. Norman Joseph, Route 4, Far Rockaway, N. Y. 2-40

WINCHESTER Carbine 32-20, \$8.00. Winchester 94, 30-30, \$13.00. Mauser 8 mm, 30 cartridges, \$11.00. Remington S.S. 30-40, \$7.00. Fred Wainwright, Grayling, Michigan. 2-40

SAVAGE M/19H Hornet, Weaver 355, very good condition, 100 loads, \$31.00. Write. Edgar Morris, Coal Valley, Illinois. 2-40

MODEL 70, .220 Target, used little, accurate, \$70.00. Model 01, Lever 10 gauge, full, 150 shells, \$26.00. Both guns perfect inside, excellent outside. W. H. Janssen, Nokomis, Illinois. 2-40

75% PRICE REDUCTION on remaining (new) 410 "Up-The-Sleeve" gas pistols. Calvin Goddard, 3533 Quebec, Washington, D. C. 2-40

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SELL: Sealed case 2000 F.A. 1933 .45 Auto, \$35.00. Send Postal Money Order. Will ship freight collect. Harry Reeves, 8332 Holmur, Detroit, Michigan. 2-40

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Hornet, altered bolt, Tilden safety, \$35.00. 70 7  
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Built SE Ithaca double, 32" full, ventilated  
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Smith double, Specialty grade, ejectors, new, cost  
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Special, AAHE, or AHE 28", Single Trigger. J. E.  
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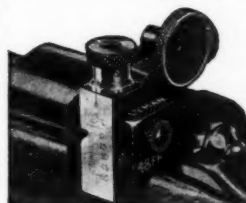
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Win. 12, 12-28 full, new. Barrel only for Savage  
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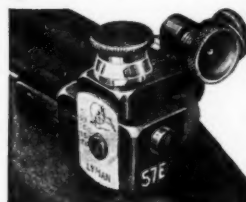
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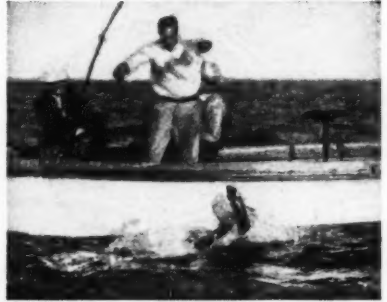
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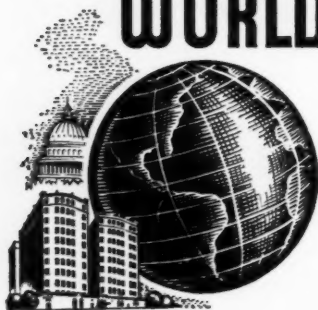
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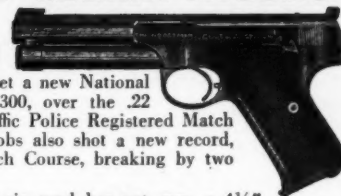
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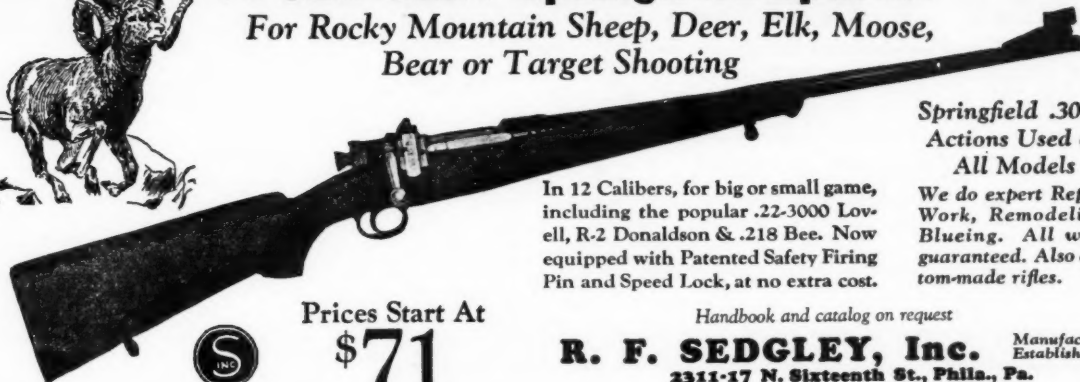
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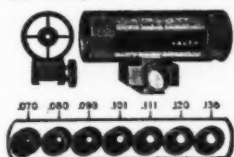
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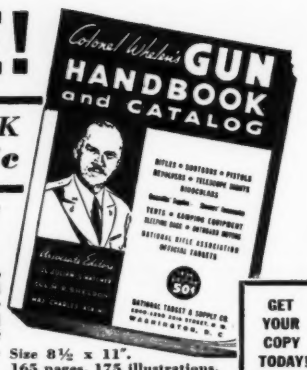


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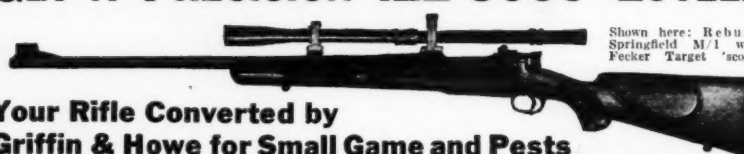
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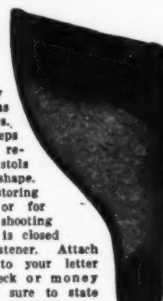
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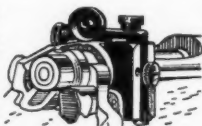


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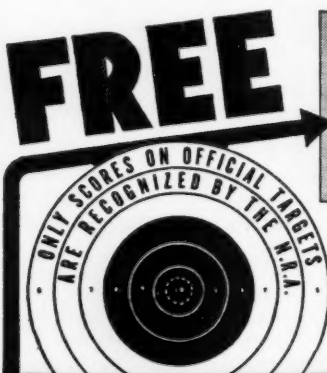


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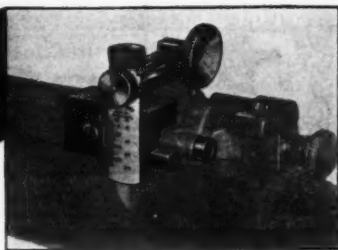
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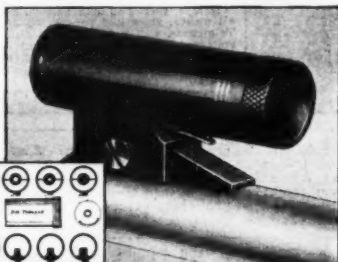
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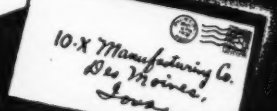
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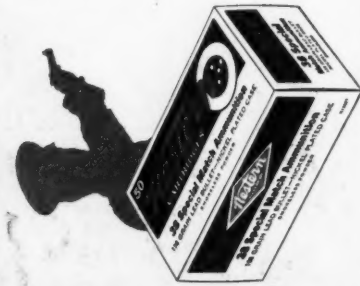
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## SMALL BORE RECORDS

DEWAR, IRON SIGHTS . . . 400-37X

WM. B. WOODRING, ALTON, ILL.

DEWAR, ANY SIGHTS . . . 400-37X

WM. B. WOODRING, ALTON, ILL.

DEWAR, IRON, 4-MAN TM.. 1590x1600

EAST ALTON (ILL.) RIFLE CLUB

CRITCHFIELD AGGR. . . . 3192x3200

NAT'L. 22 CHAMP'SHIP—VERE HAMER, WOODSTOCK, MINN.

## BIG BORE RECORDS

WIMBLEDON CUP . . . . . 100-27V

PFC. ALFRED L. WOLTERS, USMC

CROWELL TROPHY . . . . . 50-15V

LT. DAVID S. McDUGAL, USMC

MEMBERS' MATCH . . . . . 50-14V

LT. E. L. HAMILTON, USMC

MARINE CORPS CUP . . . . . 100-13V

PFC. CLAUDE L. FLOYD, JR., USMC

HERRICK TM. MATCH. 800x800-123V

U. S. MARINE CORPS RIFLE TEAM

## PISTOL RECORDS

### CAMP PERRY COURSE

.22 CAL., 4-MAN TEAM . . 1174x1200

DETROIT POLICE PISTOL TEAM

.38 CAL., INDIVIDUAL . . . 298x300

W. R. WALSH, U. S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

.38 CAL., 2-MAN TEAM . . 597x600  
PATROLMEN HEMMING and REEVES, DETROIT POLICE

.38 CAL., 4-MAN TEAM . . 1174x1200  
DETROIT POLICE PISTOL TEAM

.45 CAL., INDIVIDUAL . . . 298x300  
MELTON R. ROGERS, U. S. TREASURY PISTOL TEAM

.45 CAL., 4-MAN TEAM . . 1174x1200  
DETROIT POLICE PISTOL TEAM

## NATIONAL MATCH COURSE

.22 CAL., INDIVIDUAL . . . 297x300

PTL. ALF. W. HEMMING, DETROIT POLICE

.22 CAL., 2-MAN TEAM . . 583x600

DET. M. W. LaLONDE and DET. A. SHAPIRO, DETROIT

.38 CAL., INDIVIDUAL . . . 298x300

PTL. ALF. W. HEMMING, DETROIT POLICE

.38 CAL., 4-MAN TEAM . . 1141x1200

DETROIT POLICE PISTOL TEAM

.38 CAL., 5-MAN TEAM . . 1419x1500

U. S. TREASURY PISTOL TEAM

.45 CAL., INDIVIDUAL . . . 287x300

SGT. MARK E. WHEELER, LOS ANGELES POLICE

.45 CAL., 2-MAN TEAM . . 541x600

E. C. JONES and PAUL GOULDEN, U. S. COAST GUARD

.45 CAL., 4-MAN TEAM . . 1107x1200

DETROIT POLICE PISTOL TEAM

.45 CAL., 5-MAN TEAM . . 1380x1500

U. S. TREASURY PISTOL TEAM

**Western**



DETOIT POLICE PISTOL TEAM  
**.38 CAL., INDIVIDUAL . . . 298x300**  
W. R. WALSH, U. S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

DETOIT POLICE PISTOL TEAM  
**.45 CAL., 5-MAN TEAM..1380x1500**  
U. S. TREASURY PISTOL TEAM